Senate confirms Deleon Guerrero's appointment to MVA board. PAGE 2
Ex-law clerk moves to strike Naraja's motion to dismiss. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 236
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2023
www.saipantribune.com
www.facebook.com/saipantribune

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. unveiled the CNMI's first drive-thru outpatient pharmacy yesterday.

CHCC debuts drive-thru pharmacy

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s long-time dream has finally become a reality after officially opening the CNMI's first drive-thru outpatient pharmacy yesterday that makes it easier for its patients to pick up their medication at the hospital.

During a ribbon-cutting ceremony yesterday, CHCC

See CHCC on Page 4

'Hotels in desperation mode'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Right now, the CNMI's hotel industry is in an absolute desperation mode, according to Hotel Association of the NMI chair Ivan Quichocho yesterday, and that the industry is bleeding cash.

"We're fielding cash losses," said Quichocho during a meeting among HANMI, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and some members of the House of Representatives in the House chamber.

As it is, he said, HANMI can only hope to break even or at least incur no-cash loss.

Quichocho noted that hav-

See HOTELS on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Saipan Chamber of Commerce board member Alex Sablan gestures in a screen grab from YouTube as he discusses the challenges of the CNMI's tourism industry during a meeting with officials from the Chamber, Hotel Association of the NMI, and member of the House of Representatives in the House chamber yesterday.

Watson

CUC finds unmetered Garapan water lines

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has discovered that more than 10 establishments in Garapan and even some public school buildings have water lines that are not metered, which means they are not making money for CUC.

Kevin Watson, CUC's deputy ex-

See CUC on Page 4

Over $200K default judgment issued vs. IPI

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has issued an over $200,000 default judgment in favor of Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd. against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

In Kan Pacific's ongoing nonpayment suit against IPI, magistrate judge and clerk of court Heather Kennedy issued the default judgment after IPI failed to appear and plead its case before the court.

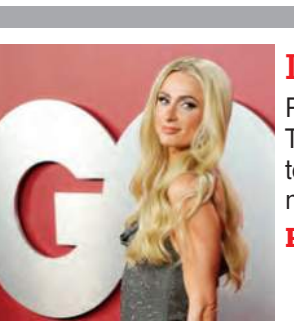
"Because IPI failed to appear, plead, or otherwise defend in this action, a clerk's entry of default was entered

See OVER on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Over 100 cybersecurity stakeholders gathered at the University of Guam for the 2024 Central Pacific Cybersecurity Summit.
PAGE 7

WORLD
The fragile cease-fire between Israel and Hamas was back on track Sunday as the militants freed 17 more hostages.
PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE
Paris Hilton had a Thanksgiving surprise to share: a daughter named London.
PAGE 14

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Senate confirms Deleon Guerrero's appointment to MVA board

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Marvin I. Deleon Guerrero is seen in this screen grab from YouTube during his recent confirmation hearing at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate confirmed Friday the nomination of songwriter and singer Marvin I. Deleon Guerrero to serve as a member of the Marianas Visitors Bureau board of directors.

Eight senators voted "yes" to adopt the Senate committee report that recommended the confirmation of Deleon Guerrero's appointment. Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) was absent, but excused from the session. The report was prepared by the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments & Government Investigations.

Deleon Guerrero, who is currently the manager of Bank Pacific on Saipan, will serve a four-year term on the MVA board representing Saipan.

Deleon Guerrero holds a master's degree in business administration from Argosy University in Honolulu, Hawaii.

EAGI Committee chair Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said the nominee is also an entrepreneur and a musician.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said Deleon Guerrero wears many hats and has vast experience and skills. and he appreciates Deleon Guerrero's acceptance of his nomination to serve on the MVA board.

In nominating Deleon Guerrero, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios stated that he and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang are confident that the nominee will be an asset to the MVA board.

Stay Connected

Payment Notice

We want to keep you connected to everything that matters to you. To avoid any service interruptions to your residential account please make payment by **Tuesday, November 28, 2023.**

For your convenience, enjoy more ways and locations to pay:
- Online at store.ite.net/onlinebilling
- **IT&E Oleai store** – Open Monday through Saturday from 8 AM to 5 PM
- **Kada Dia Payment Center** - Open Monday through Friday from 11 AM to 3:30 PM
- **Angel Market** – Open daily from 7 AM to 10 PM
  (Please bring your billing statement. Cash only.)
- **Shell Stations** - Open daily.
  (Please bring your billing statement. Cash or card accepted.)
- Over the phone by calling 670-682-4ITE (4483).

ite.net itecnmi itecnmi

IT&E

NMC enhances admission criteria for Nursing Program

To ensure the highest standards of excellence and preparedness among its nursing students, Northern Marianas College's Nursing Department has increased the grade point average requirement from 2.50 to 3.00 for admission into the college's nursing program for the fall 2024 admission cohort.

This change will be applicable to NMC pre-nursing students who have successfully met prerequisite requirements and are on track to complete their required courses by the conclusion of the spring 2024 semester.

The application process for admission to the fall 2024 cohort will commence in April 2024 and can be accessed at www.marianas.edu/nursing.

In addition to the GPA adjustment, the nursing program admission test will now be administered annually. Pre-nursing students completing their prerequisites by the end of the summer session in 2024 must plan to take the admission test in June of the following year.

For more information, contact Nursing Department chair Rosa T. Aldan at rosa.aldan@marianas.edu or administrative assistant Andrew Mendiola at andrew.mendiola@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

BOIL WATER NOTICE SAIPAN - CANCELLED

AS TERLAJE & KANNAT TABLA TANK SERVICE AREAS (TSA)
EFFECTIVE: Tuesday, November 21, 2023
ENDING: Friday, November 24, 2023
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM ID: MP0000001

CUC customers in ***Chalan Laulau, Iliyang, Chalan Kiya, San Jose, As Terlaje, Kannat Tabla, Oleai, and portions of Fina Sisu, Gualo Rai, Susupe, As Lito, As Perdido and Garapan*** were notified on ***November 21, 2023*** of a problem with the water supply and were advised to boil before use.

The results of the water samples taken ***November 23, 2023,*** were ***free or absent*** of both ***total coliform and E. Coli***.

CUC is pleased to report that the problem has been corrected and that the ***boil water notice is no longer necessary.***

CUC apologizes for any inconvenience and thank the public for its patience.

For more information, please contact CUC Customer Service at (670) 664-4282 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

(670) 664-4282 /CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation
www.cucgov.org @commonwealthutilitiescorp

Christmas in the Marianas starts Dec. 2

Christmas in the Marianas will kick off on Dec. 2, at T Galleria on Saipan, with The Marianas Experience (3pm-5pm), holiday music (5pm), lighting of the Christmas Tree (5:45pm).

Caroling this Saturday will include Oleai Elementary School (6pm), San Vicente Elementary School (6:30pm), Saipan International School (6:45pm), Grace Christian Academy (7pm), Green Meadow School (7:15pm), Mt. Carmel School (7:30pm), Brilliant Star Montessori School (7:45pm), and William S. Reyes Elementary School (8pm).

Christmas in the Marianas will continue on Dec. 9, 16, and 30, 2023, For more information, visit www.themarianas.com/the-marianas-calendar. ***(PR)***

Don Walsh, part of 2-man crew to first visit Mariana Trench, dies at 92

By MARK THIESSEN
Associated Press

Retired Navy Capt. Don Walsh, an explorer who in 1960 was part of a two-man crew that made the first voyage to the deepest part of the ocean—to the "snuff-colored ooze" at the bottom of the Pacific's Mariana Trench—has died. He was 92.

Walsh died Nov. 12 at his home in Myrtle Point, Oregon, his daughter, Elizabeth Walsh, said Monday.

In January 1960, Walsh, then a U.S. Navy lieutenant, and Swiss engineer Jacques Piccard were sealed inside a 150-ton, steel-hulled bathyscaphe named the Trieste to attempt to dive nearly 7 miles (11 kilometers) below the surface. A bathyscaphe is a self-propelled submersible used in deep-sea dives.

The two men descended to 35,800 feet (11,000 meters) in the Challenger Deep, the deepest point of the Earth's oceans, part of the Mariana Trench, about 200 miles (320 kilometers) off Guam in the Pacific.

After a descent of about five hours, the steel-hulled submersible touched down on what the log described as the "snuff-colored ooze" of silt stewed up by the ship reaching the bottom.

When they reached the seafloor, the two men shook hands.

"I knew we were making history," Walsh told The World newspaper of Coos Bay, Oregon, in 2010. "It was a special day."

After spending 20 minutes on the floor and confirming there was life there when a fish swam by, they began their 3 1/2-hour ascent.

"We were astounded to find higher marine life forms down there at all," Piccard said before his death in 2008.

Piccard designed the ship with his father, and they sold it to the U.S. Navy in 1958. Walsh was temporarily serving in San Diego when Piccard requested volunteers to operate the vehicle. Walsh stepped forward.

"There was an opportunity to pioneer," Walsh told The World. "I wasn't sure what I was going to be doing, but I knew I'd be at sea. It wasn't until later they told us what they had in store."

Walsh was born Nov. 2, 1931, in Berkeley, California. He joined the Navy at age 17, and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy. He earned

AP

Navy Lt. Don Walsh is photographed on Jan. 23, 1960.

a master's degree and a doctorate in oceanography from Texas A&M.

He served in the Navy for 24 years, retiring with the rank of captain and serving on various submarines. He then became a professor at the University of Southern California before opening his own marine consulting business in 1976.

In 2010 he received the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award and served on many boards, including as a policy adviser to the U.S. State Department.

"Walsh was a Navy officer, a submariner, an adventurer, and an oceanographer. To his family, we extend our deepest condolences and gratitude for allowing him to explore, and share his extraordinary experiences and knowledge with us," Chief of Naval Research

See WALSH on Page 4

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.
Established October 2011
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS
MOBILE CLINIC SCHEDULE
NOV 15 29
Adult Health Check
Update on personal medical history, blood pressure check, glucose check, resources & referrals
Northern Marianas College , Finasisu from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
Java Joes, Dan Dan from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
NOV 14 22
Child Health Check
For children 0-17 years old. Measurements and growth, anticipatory guidance, resources & referrals
San Vicente Youth Affairs, San Vicente from 1:00PM - 4:30PM
Han Nam Supermarket, Koblerville from 1:00PM - 4:30PM
NOV 17 21
Women's Health Check
For women who haven't seen a healthcare provider longer than 1 year, pap smears, breast exams, pre/post partum care, resources & referrals
Karidat, Dan Dan from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
Koblerville Youth Center from 1:00PM - 4:30PM
NOVEMBER IS DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH
WHAT TO BRING:
INSURANCE CARD (Medicaid and most private insurances accepted)
VALID PHOTO ID (Driver's license, Passport, Mayor's ID, etc.)
(670) 287-9926/9927/9929
www.chcc.health
@cnmichcc

Ex-law clerk moves to strike Naraja's motion to dismiss

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The former law clerk of Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja, who accuses the judge of spying on him virtually even after his contract had already expired, is asking court to strike the presiding judge's motion to dismiss his lawsuit.

Robert Mang, who is suing Naraja for allegedly spying on him virtually, has moved to strike the judge's motion for dismissal on the grounds of misstatement of law.

According to Mang's motion, Naraja cited the wrong restatement in his motion to dismiss.

"Defendant cited to the Restatement of Torts published in 1965. Updates for Physical and Emotional Harm were published in 2009 and 2012. It creates a material difference because the defendant relies on a requirement for illness or bodily harm in the earlier version of the Restatement of Torts. However, the newer version of the Restatement of Torts allows for recovery for serious emotional disturbance under the tort of negligent infliction of emotional distress," he said.

Mang argues that the seriousness of the material misstatement of law cannot be understated.

"Presiding Judge Naraja, through Attorney General [Edward] Manibusan and the chief of his Civil Division made the material misstatement of law in a court filing seeking to have a pro se civil rights case dismissed," he said

Because of this alleged misstatement, Mang is asking the Superior Court strike the entire motion to dismiss because the defense's assertion "relies on a material misstatement of law and, because there is no other sanction available, striking the motion to dismiss is warranted."

"As no other sanction is available, the plaintiff respectfully requests that the court strike the entire motion to dismiss as well as the subsequent motions to dismiss because they incorporated the same material misstatement of law. If plaintiff's ongoing spying accusations are accurate, defendant was aware that it was repeating the same misstatement of law in the subsequent filings," said Mang.

Superior Court judge pro tem Arthur Barcinas is set to hear both party's arguments in a motion hearing today.

According to Mang's lawsuit, his employer extensively spied on him, even after his employment contract had already expired.

"It started as work-from-home monitoring in or about June 2021 and is still ongoing despite my clerkship concluding in October 2021. The CNMI overlooked the need to disclose the lack of expectation of privacy in their personal manual, my contract, or on the laptop itself. They gained access to my internet in Maryland by duping my elderly parents into joining the scheme," Mang said.

Mang alleges that the Superior Court has mostly used the spying to contact 22 other judges he interviewed with during and after his clerkship.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CHCC

From page 1

chief of ancillary services Jesse Tudela said the outpatient pharmacy provides convenience for patients who need access to medication and provides a pleasant and safe workplace for employees.

The outpatient pharmacy is open from 8am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday, and 8am to 4:30pm on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.

"This new, 750-square-foot building space with a drive-thru for our CHCC outpatient pharmacy has been a dream for several years. The first drive-thru pharmacy in the CNMI aims to introduce this service for faster dispensing of medications, to improve patient satisfaction, and convenience while ensuring their safety from infectious diseases," said Tudela.

CHCC has been working for many years now to build a drive-thru outpatient pharmacy to provide its patients with a more accessible way to pick up their medication. That need was further emphasized when the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020.

Over three years later, CHCC's dream became a reality as they officially unveiled the new outpatient pharmacy drive-thru yesterday.

"This addition of a drive-thru will make it more convenient for patients to pick up medication without the hassle of having to leave their vehicles. The need for more space and convenience arose to improve access to medication while ensuring the preventative measures suggested by the World Health Organization and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] to combat COVID-19 and future infectious diseases," he said.

In a statement from CHCC CEO Esther Muña, she said one of the challenges CHCC experienced during COVID-19 was that patients were refusing to get their medication because it was a critical time, especially for those who were immunocompromised.

"We wanted to develop a way for patients to get their medication with minimal contact and a drive-thru pharmacy was the answer. This drive-thru pharmacy is the outcome of the Territorial Action Plan that the Office of the Governor, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the COVID-19 Task Force at CHCC developed to address the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the safety of both our patients and our staff. Part of that plan was to build a drive-thru for our pharmacy," she said.

Muna said the Department of the Interior provided the funding for the project, while RNV Construction built the drive-thru.

"I also want to thank Jesse Tudela and the facilities team, Delegate Gregorio Sablan (D-MP) for assisting with the CARES Act, Homeland Security, our board of trustees, the community, physicians and providers, and the staff and patients for their patience and feedback. Without them, we wouldn't have been able to come up with this kind of idea," she said.

Speaking at yesterday's ribbon cutting ceremony, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios congratulated CHCC and said this outpatient pharmacy is a valuable investment in the CNMI community.

"During COVID, it was obvious that we needed to get something like this done. This is certainly a valuable investment for our community. I'm sure this is something our Saipan community will really appreciate," he said.

The over $1.3-million drive-thru outpatient pharmacy was also made possible by the CARES Act.

CUC

From page 1

ecutive director for the Water and Wastewater Division, disclosed during a Senate Public Utilities, Transportation & Communications Committee meeting last week that they are installing new sewer lines in Garapan and discovered while doing the excavation the water lines of more than 10 establishments that are connected to CUC's watermain or waterline, but aren't metered.

"The water pipe was coming directly from our watermain and it goes toward the buildings without a meter," Watson said.

He said it's hard to identify buildings that aren't metered when water lines are buried underground.

Watson agreed with committee chair Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) that these establishments are probably not aware of it as they are just renting the buildings. For some of these buildings, they may not have any customers at all as the buildings may be vacant.

In the meantime, Watson said, they are cutting the line until such time that when a new business takes possession of a building and applies for a water meter.

He also disclosed that even some public school buildings were found to be unmetered.

"And we are correcting that. We are instituting a new work order system, for instance, called non revenue water and non revenue wastewater and that way we can correct these deficiencies in our system without waiting for somebody to put an application for our meter," Watson said.

Using the Public School System as an example, Watson said they will install a master meter for the entire school, so that all the water being used by the school will be metered.

Watson estimated CUC's water loss per year at around 60% and a lot of that is due to inaccurate meters.

He said the condition of water here is very high in chlorides and total dissolved solids, which damages water meters. Industry standards dictate high quality water that goes through the meters.

"Here [on]Saipan we don't have that luxury of high quality water. So the water meter will lose its accuracy. You have a higher flow of water going through the meter, but the water that has been built or being measured is much less than the true volume of water going through that meter. So it also attacks the pipes and causes leaks," Watson said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HOTELS

From page 1

ing a group of the largest investors on the island suffering this translates to lower tax collections, a lessened employment rate, reduced work hours, and reduced car rentals, among other things.

"The entire value chain is impacted," he added.

To the Marianas Visitors Authority's credit, it is trying extremely hard to market the CNMI, Quichocho said, but it is also dealing with the CNMI's source markets where their carriers are also coming out of COVID-19.

Quichocho believes one of the carriers that flew to the CNMI before the pandemic had 41 aircraft, but is now only able to operate 36 after COVID-19 because some of their pilots have retired, have not returned, or market demands or routes with significant demand are not enough to keep the aircrafts flying at the prescribed number of hours per day.

From the HANMI's perspective, Quichocho said, Asiana Airlines' recent suspension of flights and the reduction of flights among two other carriers have left Saipan with only three direct flights a day at a capacity of a little over 180.

With the China market, he said they go from China to Korea and into the CNMI. "So that doesn't add anything to the pipeline," Quichocho said.

In terms of Japan, he said, the MVA is doing everything under the sun, but with the strong dollar versus the yen, "U.S. denominated destinations…are extremely, extremely expensive."

With a compressed or reduced pipeline, the opportunity for the hotel industry, the restaurant industry, and wholesale consumption in general, is also condensed.

"Less customers, less commerce, less consumption," said Quichocho.

Then there's government austerity measures as well. That compounds matters in terms of that segment of the marketplace also being compressed. That means limited funds circulating in the economy.

As it is right now, the CNMI is primarily relying on the Korea market, Quichocho said.

That narrowed capacity by the CNMI's traditional tourism markets is prompting HANMI and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to consider other markets.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

OVER

From page 1

pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 55(a). Subsequently, Kan Pacific Saipan requested default judgment against IPI and filed a proper motion and affidavit in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 55(b). Pursuant to Rule 55(b)(1), default judgment is hereby entered in favor of Kan Pacific Saipan and against defendant IPI," states the order.

According to Kennedy, Kan Pacific is awarded the principal amount of $200,000, prejudgment interest of $9,698.63 which is the principal amount multiplied by 10% for each day of nonpayment as of Nov. 21, 2023.

In addition, Kan Pacific was granted legal fees and costs in the amount to be determined by the court following a motion from the plaintiff and post-judgment interest under the applicable federal post-judgment interest rate.

According to the lawsuit, IPI failed to pay Kan Pacific the annual payment due on June 1, 2023, in the amount of $200,000, and the default continued after Kan Pacific gave IPI its 10-day notice of default pursuant to the agreement.

WALSH

From page 3

Rear Adm. Kurt Rothenhaus said in a Navy press release.

Walsh traveled the world, including many trips to Antarctica, where the Walsh Spur pointed rock is named in his honor.

His daughter said one of the earliest lessons she and her brother Kelly learned from their parents is that the world is not a scary place—a lesson that was reinforced because their parents always came home after their various travels.

He encouraged them to venture out, as well.

"Don't be scared of it and go have adventures and learn things and meet people," she recalled him teaching. "He's certainly instilled an enthusiastic curiosity about the world in Kelly and I, and that's a tremendous gift."

In 2020, Kelly Walsh made his own journey to the bottom of the Challenger Deep in a vessel owned and piloted by Dallas explorer Victor Vescovo.

"An extraordinary explorer, oceanographer, and human being. I'm so honored I could call him my friend," Vescovo posted on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter, the day after Don Walsh's death.

In addition to his children, Walsh is also survived by his wife of 61 years, Joan.

Earn
50,000
bonus miles
when you apply by 12/31/2023 and spend $5,000 within the first three months.[1]
Business travel just got even better.
The new United World Elite Business Credit Card offers perks that can transform your next trip. Enjoy no foreign transaction fees,[2] two free checked bags,[3] and two complimentary United Club℠ passes annually.[4] Plus, earn double miles on United flights, dining, and other everyday business purchases.[5]
First Hawaiian Bank
UNITED
business
New
First Hawaiian Bank.
It all starts with yes.
UNITED MileagePlus.
Learn more at fhb.com/unitedbusiness.
Member FDIC
[1]Subject to credit approval. Apply for the United® World Elite Business Credit Card by 12/31/2023 and, if approved, receive 50,000 bonus miles after spending $5,000 in net qualifying purchases (purchases minus returns/credits) within the first three months after account opening. Your account opening date is noted on your approval letter. Certain transactions are not considered qualifying purchases as described in the United World Elite Business Credit Card Program Agreement ("Program Agreement"). To view the Program, please visit fhb.com/uabusprogramagreement. Account must be open and in good standing to receive the bonus miles. After qualifying, please allow 6 to 8 weeks for bonus miles to post to your MileagePlus account.
[2]See fhb.com/unitedbusinessdisclosures for more information on pricing and terms.
[3]The Business Cardholder's first and second standard checked bags are free when you use your United World Elite Business Credit Card to purchase your tickets on United and United Express-operated flights; codeshare partner-operated flights are not eligible. See the Program Agreement for details and restrictions.
[4]Receive two complimentary one-time passes to participating United Club locations, upon account opening and every year on the anniversary date of your account opening. See the Program Agreement for details and restrictions. First Hawaiian Bank reserves the right to cancel or change the Program at any time without prior notice and is not responsible for the provision of, or failure to provide, United Club lounge amenities. For additional information regarding the United Club, please visit united.com/unitedclub.
[5]Earn 2x miles per $1 spent on United® tickets purchased through United ticketing channels, dining, home supply warehouse stores and hardware stores, and telecommunication services; and 1x mile per $1 spent on all other purchases. Merchant registration may affect whether a purchase is eligible to earn additional United Miles per one (1) dollar spent. United Miles have no cash value except as described in the Program Agreement. See the Program Agreement for details.

Torres, Dela Cruz, Jones win Most Badass Awards

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Three out of 12 nominees won the most badass people 2023 title during Tyler's Gelatte Stone's first Most Badass People award ceremony on Nov. 17 at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

Kagman High School principal Benjamin Jones Jr., Run Saipan president and ARFF firefighter Edward Dela Cruz Jr., and makeup artist and "LP Beauty" brand founder and owner Lara Torres were three of the 12 trailblazing nominees that were recognized as the Marianas' most badass in 2023.

Jones Jr. was unable to be present at the event as he is in the Solomon Islands for the 2023 Pacific Games, so his wife received the award for him. Jones Jr. did send a previous video thanking the people who nominated him.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

From left, Tyler's Gelatte Stone owner Ben Babauta, with Most Badass People awardees Lara Torres, Edward Dela Cruz Jr., and Benjamin Jones Jr.'s wife, Lenette Jones, at the event's awarding ceremony last Nov. 17 at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

In his remarks, Dela Cruz extended his warmest thanks to the sponsors and staff of Tyler's Gelatte Stone. "I know how much hard work it is to coordinate this...," said Dela Cruz. In addressing his fellow nominees, he said, "Your hard work is so amazing and inspiring, so thank you, guys, for all your hard work...," adding he's already excited to see what his fellow nominees will do next year.

Along with being awarded as one of the most badass people, Torres was also the recipient of the People's Choice Award. The makeup artist was surprised and touched at the same time. In addressing the audience, she said, "I was so blown away when I saw the nominees list. I'm badass? I mean I'm just doing what I love to do, honestly. …I'm at a loss for words, but I'm very grateful."

"This is amazing, I'm just excited to put this at my shop. There are so many things I'm planning for 2024, I'm just getting started. But honestly, everybody is badass. I feel like they all won tonight regardless of who got a trophy or not. ...We're all winners," she added.

The other nominees were Rep. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Juan Camacho, Palm Trio, Jocelyn Itibus, Cherese Palacios, Bonny Grow, Samantha Salamon, Ashley Pangelinan, and Elina Chhetri.

The event was the very first of its kind.

Tyler's Gelatte Stone's Ben Babauta Jr. said they wanted to recognize the CNMI's hardworking professionals "to keep them motivated, to keep them passionate, to keep them moving our community so we can grow and prosper together.

"As I see how hard these people work, I see the behind-the-scenes effort that they are putting in to get things done...," he added.

Babauta noted that, while celebrating these individuals, profits made from the event will go toward funding scholarships at Northern Marianas College and Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

He said they had originally received over 40 nominations for the award and they narrowed it down to 12. The public was then encouraged to vote for the nominees online.

"I am so happy for all the nominees and they are all deserving their nominations." said Babauta.

He also thanked the event's 38 sponsors "All of them are small businesses and we want to keep our small businesses growing," he said.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Tyler's Gelatte Stone owner Ben Babauta, with the 10 of the 12 Most Badass People nominees at the Most Badass People awarding ceremony last Nov. 17 at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 24-036

Opening Date: Friday, November 24, 2023
Closing Date: UNTIL FILLED

POSITION TITLE:	**Deputy Director for Electric Power Systems**
DEPARTMENT:	**Executive Director**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**Commensurate with Education and Experience**
CONTRACT:	**Two Year Contract, subject to renewal**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Assesses and evaluates the conditions of the operating and non-operating power plant, including the engine and its auxilary and ancillary equipment and systems.
- Assesses and evaluates the conditions of the operating and non-operating of the power transmission and distribution systems.
- Assesses and evaluates the conditions of the operating and non-operating of the renewable energy projects and systems.
- Improves data collection and monitors plant operation and equipment condition with minimum investment, the funding of which will be arranged by CUC.
- Leads power generation in evaluation of required parts and consumable required for immediate, interim and long term needs, as per the corporation's goals.
- Prepares relevant maintenance and overhaul schedules, including Preventive Maintenance Program (PMP) of the power plant engines, their auxiliary systems and distribution facilities based on OEM recommendation and condition monitoring principles.
- Trains and leads the plant staff in implementation and the supervision of such schedules and related activities.
- Improves and increases existing power generation capacity, reliability of power generation and generation efficiencies, thereby reducing avoidable loss.
- Minimizes equipment failures and downtime through structured planning and maximizing component life through effective Operation and Maintenance (O&M).
- Leads the CUC with the preparation of specifications and bidding documents for the power plants, as required by the generation and distribution management.
- Provides guidance, management support, and supervision in streamlining and expediting the procurement of parts for power generation.
- Leads the evaluation and assessment of the plant O&M personnel, and leads them in the implementation of structured training programs for the lack of skill levels identified.
- Leads in improving skill sets and knowledge sets of the CUC staff through training, including hands-on and specific tailor-made programs.
- Performs other duties as assigned, necessary for the maintenance and improvement of electric power systems.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Bachelor's degree from a national institute of technology in an electrical engineering curriculum plus ten (10) years of engineering experience which included responsibility for diesel electric power plant management, project management, and maintenance of diesel electric power plant equipment; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience that has led to the acquisition of the knowledge, skills, and abilities as indicated above.

Ability to: Plan, schedule, assign, review, and evaluate the work of others; Coordinate the activities with those of the Power Generation Division and outside organizations; Deal tactfully and effectively with others, both inside and outside the Corporation, including representing the Corporation with other organizations and agencies; Make effective oral presentation; Monitor new developments, legislation, and other agencies' activities that may affect the work.

Thorough Knowledge of: Diesel electric power plant; Engineering principles, methods, and practices as applied to planning, design, cost estimating, construction, installation, operation, inspection, and/or operation of a wide variety of electric power facilities including power generation, alternative/renewable energy, and engineering economics; Standard sources of civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering information; Construction materials; Local building codes and structural design codes and reference sources; Appropriate safety standards and related systems as specified by the position assigned.

Working Knowledge of: Engineering principles and practices; Practices, procedures, and terminology of the engineering, operational, planning and/or technical support functions supervised; Commonwealth and Federal regulations pertaining to the work; Effective management techniques.
General Knowledge of: Surveying and modern construction methods; Commonwealth laws relating to engineering, power supplies, fuel storage, and environmental impact assessments, principles and techniques of supervision.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards (based on assignment); Providing customer services; Filing, organizing and maintain records and files; Preparing basic reports, correspondence and documentation; Managing time and prioritizing requests; Providing attention to detail; Proofreading documents for accuracy; Identifying errors and making corrections; Reviewing and researching account information; Maintaining confidentiality of records and information; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with co-workers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

- Licensing:
  - Valid CNMI Driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction with appropriate class.

Relocation Expenses: If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed $10,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed $10,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Receipts will be required for justification. Other conditions may be applicable.

Policies: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.
It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 24-029

Opening Date: Friday, November 24, 2023
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 07, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant**
DEPARTMENT:	**Wastewater Division**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Three (3)**

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the Wastewater Division.

Duties:

- The Trades Assistant assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Monitor and perform preventive maintenance on sewer lines, manholes, and lift stations.
- Assist in taking treatment plant readings and performing adjustments.
- Cleans, maintains, repairs and paints submersible pumps.
- Lifts, inspects and replace submersible pumps.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspecting and troubleshooting principles; Preventive maintenance principles; Inventory control principles.
Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification:

- Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

'PRIORITY IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT'

Guam governor attends National Guard Cybersecurity Summit

By MARK SCOTT
Guam National Guard

MANGILAO, Guam—Over 100 cybersecurity stakeholders gathered at the University of Guam for the 2024 Central Pacific Cybersecurity Summit, hosted by the Guam National Guard on Nov. 6-7.

Representatives from U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, National Guard Bureau, U.S. Cyber Command, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security, public utilities, commercial service providers and others, joined Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero in the ongoing effort to integrate and bolster cybersecurity protection for the island and nation.

"Over the next two days, we are going to lean on one another, exchange ideas, and use our collective expertise to fortify our island and our region's ability to respond and recover from a cyber-attack," said Leon Guerrero. "To simply say it's a priority is an understatement. It is mission-critical to our island's defense and our nation's defense that we get this done.

In May 2023, Guam experienced 140 mile-per-hour sustained winds from Typhoon Mawar, wiping out communication systems and other utilities across the 200 square mile island. On the same day, a multinational advisory and Microsoft announced a malicious computer code was discovered in Guam. The attacks were attributed to Volt Typhoon, a state-sponsored hacking group that carries out espionage and information gathering for the Chinese government.

Home to over 150,000 U.S. citizens, Guam is located in "typhoon alley" of the Western Pacific. Guam is also closer to Taiwan than Washington D.C. is to Fort Bliss, making it the westernmost U.S. soil in the Indo-Pacific. Additionally, Guam's Marianas archipelago is the only U.S. soil to have been captured and occupied by an invading force during World War II. This combination of natural and man-made threats to Guam's fledgling infrastructure, together with Guam's isolated location, prompted the Guard and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command to bring stakeholders together.

Participants of the summit, the second in an ongoing series, addressed capability gaps, resource procurement, organizational structures, and more. Among the conversations were experts from the U.S. Air Force Reserve's Innovative Readiness Training program with training opportunities for the civilian community; U.S Coast Guard representatives' extensive knowledge of Incident Command; and U.S. Cyber Command's training tools to simulate offensive vs. defensive cyber operations. After two days of the various presentations and discussions, Guam Homeland Security announced a new, CISA-approved Islandwide Cybersecurity Plan.

Lt. Col. Bumjin Park, chief information officer for the Guam Guard, described the importance of interagency cooperation during the summit.

"When we talk about homeland defense and integrated deterrence, it starts with relationships," said Park. "Yes, we are generating plans and trying to procure much-needed cyber resources. But really, it's the human element like strong partnerships and well-trained communities, even for regular civilian users at home and at work, that provide a strong front against any adversary."

MARK SCOTT
Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero addresses an audience of Federal Government, Government of Guam, and civilian cybersecurity stakeholders at the Guam National Guard 2024 Central Pacific Cybersecurity Summit, University of Guam, Nov. 6, 2023.

In her remarks, Leon Guerrero echoed the importance of the whole of community approach.

"With so many experts in the room, this integration creates strength that is greater than the sum of its parts," said Leon Guerrero. "This integration showcases our relationships and unity of effort. And when it comes to defending the island and nation we love and call home, this integration deters. Integrated Deterrence is a watchword over at INDOPACOM, and this is the work we are doing here today."

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 24-038

Opening Date: Friday, November 24, 2023
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 07, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	Trades Assistant
DEPARTMENT:	Water Division
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	$16,742.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the Water Division.

Duties:

- Assists with installations, repairs, and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans, and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment: takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Performing daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning, and monitoring.
- Assisting plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew.
- Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks.
- Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main valves, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps.
- Assisting with meter installation and repair.
- Collecting water samples.
- Must be able to lift objects weighing 40 lbs. or more.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification:
- Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class

All applicants may be tested, and all applicants are subject to a pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building in Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 24-028

Opening Date: Friday, November 24, 2023
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 07, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	Engineer
DEPARTMENT:	Water & Wastewater Engineering Division
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	$40,084.00 to $54,113.00 per annum, Exempt
CONTRACT:	Two Year Contract, Subject to Renewal
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Engineer or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Assists in the management of multiple, complex projects to advance CUC mission and vision and to protect public health and the environment.
- Coordinates with CUC departments, contractors, manufacturers, suppliers and other parties to ensure accurate and timely completion of program requirements.
- Develops plans, specifications, and technical reports.
- Prepares complex engineering calculations, reports, specifications, contracts, and drawings.
- Assists in the preparation of reports for grant funding programs.
- Acts as construction manager for water and wastewater projects.
- Conducts field investigations and inspections.
- Provides system troubleshooting and system evaluations for operational staff.
- Supervises junior engineers and technicians to ensure the timely and accurate completion of projects.
- Conducts employee performance evaluations, corrective actions, conducts interviews, and provides recommendations regarding hiring and disciplinary actions.
- Responds to emergencies both during and after business hours.
- To perform field measurements for distance, elevation, flows, pressures and other elements related to water and sewer system designs, including configuration of water/sewer facilities, utilizing surveying equipment and GIS system.
- Design size and length of water mains, capacity (pumping rate and head) of booster stations, size, slope, and distance of sewer gravity mains and force mains, size, pumping capacity, and liquid level control of Lift stations.
- Design drawings to portray facilities to be constructed based on completed design and specification preparation for water systems and water sources, transmission and distribution pipelines and storage tank, including wastewater systems and facilities sewer lines, sewer pumping stations and treatment plants.
- Writes reports for engineering feasibility analysis, evaluations, such as water and wastewater flow, well production, water loss, electrical consumption, system hydraulics.
- Prepare scopes of work for a variety of A&E consultant services related to existing and proposed water and sewer systems; Analysis of water system operation performance by pressure zone.
- Operations support such as review of operating mode and system configuration, water leaks detection, repairs and recovery of water loss.
- Ensure proper installation and monitoring of pilot control system using supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA).
- Effects repairs to multiple emergency power generators for the wastewater lift stations;
- Responsible for overseeing the engineering aspect of the water and wastewater system operations modifications, maintenance and repairs.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil, Environmental, or Mechanical Engineering and four years of related engineering experience.
Knowledge of: Engineering principles and practices; mathematical, pumping and hydraulics, and wastewater conveyance and treatment concepts; project management principles; construction techniques; safe work practices; applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; reading, understanding, and preparing drawings for construction contracts; preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; interpreting and preparing specifications; estimating construction costs; conducting studies. Able to use computers and related software applications; communicate, interact with co-workers, supervisor, contractors, representatives of other agencies and departments, and the general public to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction; use AutoCAD to prepare plans for utility projects and contracts is a plus. Registration as an Engineer-In-Training in the CNMI, Guam, or any State of the United States is preferred but not required. Applicants licensed as a Professional Engineer in the CNMI, Guam, or any State of the United States is encouraged to apply.

- **Licensing:**
  - Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

- **Physical Demands:**
  - Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday and Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Opinion

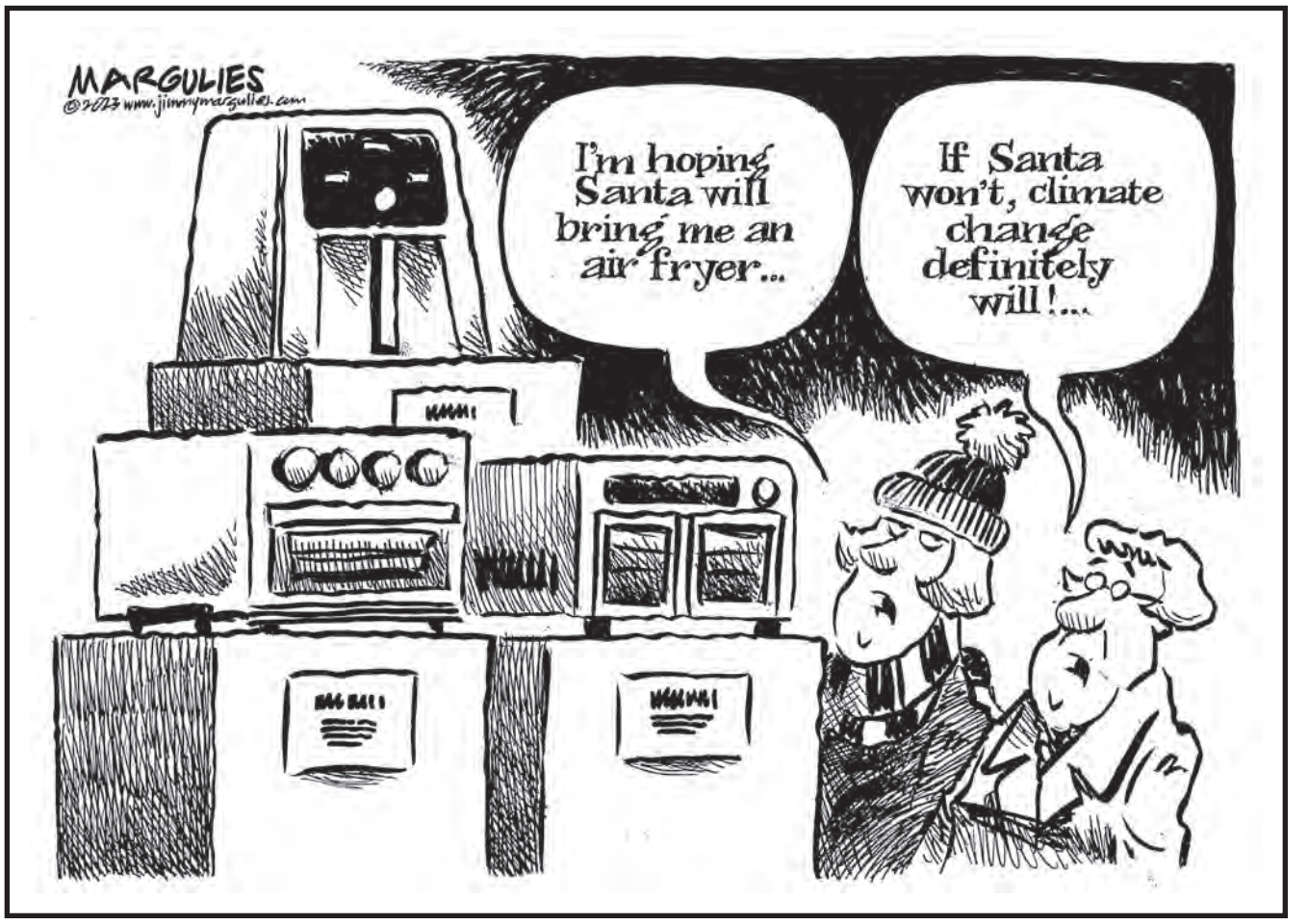
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 236

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association


MARGULIES
©2023 www.jimmymargulies.com
I'm hoping Santa will bring me an air fryer...
If Santa won't, climate change definitely will!...

EDITORIAL

Inoculation against extremism: Censorship only leaves us more vulnerable

New Yorkers were shocked and appalled when some social media personalities rediscovered a 2002 "Letter to America" in which Osama Bin Laden, dripping with antisemitism, criticized U.S. foreign policy, suggesting it painted a more compelling picture of the terrorist. While the rehabilitation of the dead jihadist behind 9/11 may have been overstated, the Guardian, which had hosted a version of the letter, pulled it from its site.

We've defended the principles of free speech many times here, including several in the past several weeks as some institutions have turned towards speech restrictionism in response to widespread public discourse and high tensions in the wake of the Oct. 7 Hamas terror attack on Israel and its subsequent military response.

It is crucial to note, though, that this isn't a principle for its own sake. There is a practical purpose to having robust public discussion, in particular around contentious social and political topics and including unpopular or controversial ideas. Exposure to ideas, even bad ones, is the only way for people, especially young people, to develop antibodies against extremism. We should know by now that little is as enticing as the forbidden; to hide ideas is to all but beg those casting about for political identity to ask "what are they trying to hide?"

Stalin, Hitler and Mao are all worthy of study, as is another blood-soaked fiend, Bin Laden. To the ignorant and ahistorical who do their scholarly research on TikTok, some of these monsters' rhetoric may sound intriguing. But what is needed is education to what they really stood for and what they really did. Shutting down access is a great way to generate sympathy and additional cachet for seemingly forbidden ideas.

We can practically guarantee that scrubbing the Bin Laden letter from the Guardian's site has just driven more people to go looking for it, perhaps in places where there won't be quite as much contextualization or where it'll be an entrypoint to more dangerous calls to action.

This is in no way an entreaty to reevaluate Bin Laden nor a call to disseminate his letter. Any ideas the man might have are but a footnote to his campaign of murder and terrorism—a campaign led, by the way, by a former billionaire business school student who chose to reinvent himself as a revolutionary.

It's not a call for all speech to be tolerated everywhere; it makes sense to have some social media moderation of harmful medical misinformation around vaccines and eating disorders, for example, and no institution, university or otherwise, should tolerate members calling for violence against or harassment of others.

We are pointing out that efforts to hide what is ulti-

See INOCULATION on Page 9

The hypocrisy at the core of America's elite universities

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg Opinion

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist, a professor of economics at George Mason University and host of the* Marginal Revolution *blog.*

Now that congressional Democrats have relaunched an effort to ban legacy admissions at top U.S. universities, virtually everyone can count on one thing: ideological embarrassment.

Legacy admissions are part of a broader system whereby elite US colleges and universities largely favor wealthy families in their admissions practices. It is possible to buy your way into those institutions—whether by being born into a legacy family that is considered likely to make a donation, or by being the child of someone who actually makes a large donation. Some 43% of white students admitted to Harvard are recruited athletes, legacies, from the "dean's interest" list (which is often related to donations), or children of faculty and staff.

There are any number of motives behind these admissions practices. But a major one is the desire to bring in money and boost endowments.

As someone who stands to the political right of most of my fellow university faculty and administrators, I have no qualms accepting the argument that colleges and universities need to grow wealthier. That can mean tolerating various inequalities in the short run, because in the longer run academia will produce more innovation that benefits virtually everyone, including the poor.

This is not the kind of argument many on the political left find appealing. In tax policy, for example, such reasoning—the idea that short-run inequality can bring longer-run benefits—is often derided as "trickle-down economics." And yet virtually any fan of the Ivies has to embrace this idea. The best defense of the admissions policies of America's most prestigious universities is a right-leaning argument that they are deeply uncomfortable with.

So instead they tie themselves into knots to give the impression that they are open and egalitarian. To boost their image, minimize lawsuits and perhaps assuage their own feelings of institutional guilt, America's top schools adopt what are known as DEI policies, to promote diversity, equity and inclusion.

The "inclusion" part of that equation is hardest for them to defend. Top-tier universities accept only a small percentage of applicants—below 4% at Stanford last year, for example. How inclusive can such institutions be? Everyone knows that these schools are elitist at heart, and that they (either directly or indirectly) encourage their students and faculty to take pride at belonging to such a selective institution. Most of all, the paying parents are encouraged to be proud as well. Who exactly is being fooled here?

So the top schools have the choice of either sounding hypocritical, or defending themselves with right-leaning rhetoric. They choose hypocrisy.

Of course, that hurts their reputation. Americans may not know much about the details of the latest campus controversy at Princeton or Columbia, but they have a strong sense that these kinds of elite schools are hypocritical when it comes to their admissions practices. And this sense has only been magnified by campus conflicts and protests over the Israel-Hamas war. Again, most Americans aren't playing close attention. But universities may have a hard time convincing the public that they are treating protesters and activists fairly because the public already believes they don't treat applicants fairly.

Yes, there are also ideological tensions on the right. Conservatives are accustomed to attacking top universities for being too left-wing, and indeed the data support that contention. Maybe they would have a different view of elite higher education if they saw it as one of America's leading practitioners of trickle-down economics.

Banning legacy admissions also would require a rather drastic insertion of the federal government into the business and admissions practices of private-sector universities, especially once enforcement issues are considered. ("Well, we didn't accept you *just* because your dad went here.") Still, I don't expect conservative politicians to go to the mat for Yale or Dartmouth, even though the libertarian strand of Republican Party thought would suggest doing so.

As for me, I teach at a state university—George Mason University—that accepts about 90% of all applicants. If someone has a chance of succeeding, we offer them the opportunity to show that. Not all institutions can or should work this way, but mine is an inclusive university, and I am proud of that.

I thus have the luxury of opposing the new anti-legacy-admissions bill for two mutually reinforcing reasons. First, it reflects an unjustified expansion of federal powers over higher education. Even if you are anti-legacy, or want to rein in the Ivy League, you may not be happy about how those federal powers will be used the next time around.

Second, I do not mind a world where America's top schools practice and implicitly endorse trickle-down economics. Someone has to carry the banner forward, and perhaps someday this Trojan horse will prove decisive in intellectual battle. In the meantime, I have my cudgel—hypocrisy among the educational elite—and I, too, can feel better about myself.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The making of a president's most special adviser

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.

When Charles Hammer, a theoretical physicist at Iowa State University, dialed the Georgia telephone number he was told to call in 1975—at precisely the time he was told to call it—he had every reason to assume he was calling the campaign office of Georgia's little-known ex-governor who was running for president.

So he was ready to introduce himself to any functionary who answered—and say he'd decided to sign on to Jimmy Carter's longshot Iowa caucus campaign committee.

"Hi, Charlie. How's Hazel?" Surprised, Hammer recognized the soft southern drawl. It was Rosalynn Carter. He'd dialed their home phone in Plains, Georgia. He was doubly surprised when Mrs. Carter remembered his wife, Hazel. They'd all met only once, very briefly, two weeks earlier in a little Iowa town called Atlantic (which is half a continent away from the ocean but right on the shore of the East Nishnabotna River). And he was surprised once more when Mrs. Carter mentioned that Hazel said she had a brother in Michigan. Mrs. Carter asked for his name and address and later wrote a note asking the brother if he'd help when the Carter campaign got to Michigan.

Jimmy Carter was always fond of telling writers about how Rosalynn, who died Sunday at age 96 after being diagnosed with dementia, was such a quiet and shy—even "timid"—girl when they first dated in Plains. Indeed, when Carter first ran for governor, he famously felt the need to push his wife to campaign by talking with people.

But there certainly was nothing "timid" about Rosalynn Carter by the time I got to know the Carters, while covering the 1976 campaign and their White House years for Newsday, The Washington Post and while writing a book, "Running for President 1976." She remained soft-spoken and reserved, but had become a confident quiet campaigner, known for being kind and caring.

Part of Rosalynn Carter's evolution came during the earliest days of that unusual campaign—when Carter asked his wife to campaign without him, on a special assignment.

As always, Carter and his strategists were positioning him as the man-in-the-middle. To his left in Campaign '76, were liberals including the most impressive Rep. Mo Udall of Arizona. To his right was Alabama's former Gov. George Wallace, who was campaigning, once again. So, in April 1975, Carter asked his wife and their friend, Edna Langford, to go into the heart of George Wallace country—in the northwest panhandle of Florida, which would be a key primary state in 1976.

"Jimmy just told us to go to Florida and make friends," Langford recalled. "Make friends in George Wallace's territory and show them that there was an alternative. So that's what we did."

The two women traveled on a lonely trek through the most Alabama-like small towns of Florida's panhandle. They walked into the offices of the local newspapers and radio stations, unannounced. They ended up in news photos on front pages, with Rosalynn holding a Carter bumper sticker. At radio stations they sometimes wrote down questions someone there could ask them. In Panama City, they walked in on a Rotary Club meeting and became a news story. The liberal candidates didn't campaign much in Florida—and Carter beat Wallace and carried that key state.

As Charlie Hammer and so many others discovered in that 1976 campaign and ever after, Mrs. Carter quietly accomplished what she set out to do. She mostly got things done—her way. But not always. Like all campaign advisers, there were occasions when she was overruled. One occurred when Carter and his advisers discovered what all candidates discover at times: They craft a careful message strategy based on a speech, the candidate delivers the speech. But then someone puts a mic in the candidate's face, asks a question on something totally different. The candidate answers it—and THAT becomes the story. And that carefully crafted speech is forgotten.

Rosalynn had pressed her husband to simply not answer unwanted questions. "What I tried to get him to do was not answer the questions," Rosalynn told me in 1976. "…Do your thing and leave. But he didn't do it."

It was as a first lady that Rosalynn Carter made by far her most legendary achievement. She became a crusader for one of our most vital, yet neglected, causes—mental health. She focused public attention—and our news media's coverage—on mental health. She made treating mental health problems a matter of national urgency.

And in the process, she did one thing more for us all:

Rosalynn Carter will be remembered for having given dignity to millions of people who once felt embarrassed to say they suffer from this prevalent and very treatable public health problem. We remain forever grateful.

Human brains aren't wired to fight climate change

By MARK GONGLOFF
Bloomberg Opinion

Mark Gongloff is a Bloomberg Opinion *editor and columnist covering climate change. He previously worked for* Fortune.com*, the* Huffington *Post, and the* Wall Street Journal.

Humans are very likely the only species that can imagine very distant futures. Unfortunately, our brains aren't wired to behave in a way that optimizes those futures. After all, most of us don't even save enough for retirement. If we have a choice between eating a donut right now and being marginally more healthy later, the donut almost always wins.

Individual choices can have broad social implications. If we're broke in retirement, we'll rely on public assistance. If we make ourselves sick from eating too many donuts, we'll be less productive and a drain on health-care resources. But society as a whole is also prone to toxic short-termism. Take climate change. Burning fossil fuels, clear-cutting forests and mass-producing cows serve our immediate needs for lights, farmland and cheeseburgers, but at the cost of ruining the climate for many future generations.

How many generations, exactly? Andrew Dessler, director of the Texas Center for Climate Studies at Texas A&M University, recently posted a version of the following chart to "The Climate Brink," the Substack newsletter he co-authors with climate scientist Zeke Hausfather. He labeled it "the scariest plot in the world":

The chart lays out global temperatures since the depth of the last ice age, almost 20,000 years ago, and projects them out another 10,000 or so years. It demonstrates the many slow millennia it took for Earth to warm by roughly 4 degrees Celsius until reaching the pleasant climate of the Holocene interglacial period, the era in which humans thrived and developed electricity, agriculture and cheeseburgers.

The chart also demonstrates just how quickly the Earth could heat by 3 degrees Celsius as a result of humanity's wanton burning of fossil fuels over just a few hundred years. And that would occur in the blink of a geological eye compared to Earth's previous gradual warming phase. That amount of heating would be catastrophic for billions of current and future humans, leading to ever-more deadly and destructive heatwaves, wildfires, droughts and storms, along with wars, disease, famine and more.

Unfortunately, that outcome is more or less what we can expect, given current policies and practices around the world. And even if we stop burning fossil fuels in the decades to come, most of the human-caused heating would likely stick around for another 100,000 years, according to Dessler. "The decisions we make in the next few decades will determine the climate for the next 5,000 generations," Dessler wrote. "If we choose unwisely, people in the future will justifiably be furious with us because we know what we're doing but we're doing it anyway."

At the moment, we are choosing very unwisely. There have been a flurry of big climate-change reports ahead of the next United Nations climate confab, known as COP28, beginning in late November. Each has been a hammer blow of harsh truth about just how badly we are managing the climate for future generations:

■ The concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere hit a record high in 2022, with "no end in sight to the rising trend," the World Meteorological Organization said.

■ Current global policies have emissions on track to be 9% higher than 2010 levels by the end of this decade, making the goal of limiting warming to 1.5C impossible, the United Nations reported.

■ The World Resources Institute called efforts to fight climate change " woefully inadequate," failing on 41 of its 42 performance metrics.

■ Government climate actions grew by just 1% last year, the slowest pace in more than 20 years, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development reported.

What makes this more infuriating is that current generations are already suffering the effects of our foot-dragging. The White House reported that no part of the US or its territories is immune from the ravages of global heating. Health is already significantly worse around the world as a result of hotter weather and disasters, the Lancet reported.

Our failure to act isn't just short-sightedness; it's willful ignorance. This may be the result of another flaw in human wiring: We tend to assume the future will look a lot like the present, so even if the present is slightly worse than the past, it's hard for us to imagine things could get even worse still.

The good news is that none of this is a mystery. Our awareness of these flaws is the first step to recovery. We do have leaders who at least give lip service to making the world safe for future generations. Most voters worry about climate change and want to see action. And all the tools we need are at hand. We have the technology to end our reliance on fossil fuels and limit warming to 1.5C; we just have to be willing to make the investment to deploy it at scale.

"This is not a science problem; it's a political problem," Dessler said in an interview. "If we don't solve it, it's because we chose not to solve it, not because we didn't have the solution."

Some of us break into a cold sweat when trying to figure out what to make for dinner on any given night or when an job interviewer asks us where we see ourselves in five years. It's ironically easier to have a vision for where the planet could be in five, 50 or 5,000 years. We just need to share that vision, loudly and often, with the people and organizations who have the power to make that vision a reality. Our future selves will thank us.

INOCULATION

From page 8

mately a historically significant document, or to tamp down on expressions of political opinion, are not only anti-democratic but most often backfire. Students who have valid criticisms of Israel's policies and the country's military campaign against Hamas are not going to soften their stance by having their campus groups banned and job prospects threatened; they'll turn towards extreme versions of those positions.

Young people must be able to read and discuss disputed or outright bad ideas without risking their futures. You can't keep someone in a clean room and be shocked that the first contact with the flu is almost fatal.

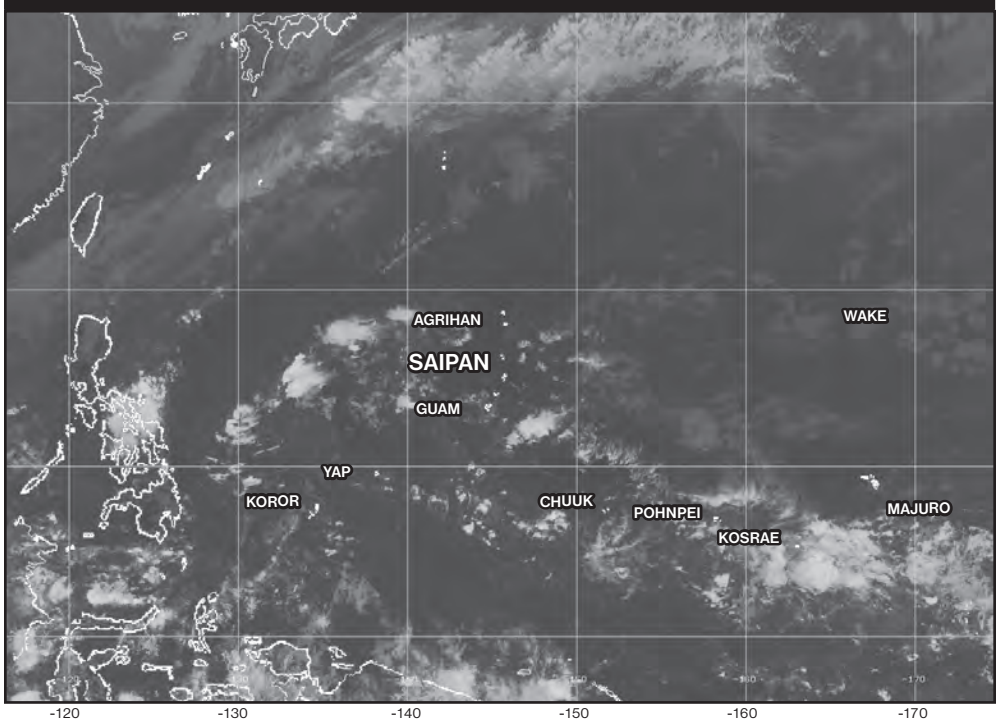
©2023 New York Daily News

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with a 10 percent chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers.	Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers.
86 / 78°	86 / 79°	86 / 79°	86 / 79°	86 / 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:52 AM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Doppler radar indicates isolated showers within Marianas waters. Altimetry is showing combined seas of 6 to 8 feet, while Ipan and Tanapag buoys are showing 7 to 8 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Fair	69° / 56°
Beijing	Fair	44° / 21°
Hong Kong	Fair	77° / 64°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	80° / 74°
London	Cloudy	55° / 46°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 58°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Rain	64° / 55°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	79° / 71°
New York	Mostly Sunny	50° / 46°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	54° / 41°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	52° / 37°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	55° / 36°
Rome	Cloudy	61° / 46°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	63° / 44°
San Francisco	Rain	58° / 50°
Seoul	Cloudy	44° / 39°
Tokyo	Sunny	58° / 45°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	53° / 43°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:27 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:57 AM	6:22 PM
Wednesday	-	7:57 AM	7:17 PM
Thursday	-	8:54 AM	8:14 PM
Friday	-	9:46 AM	9:10 PM
Saturday	-	10:34 AM	10:03 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:04 AM	Low Tide	-0.64
9:11 AM	High Tide	1.79
2:31 PM	Low Tide	1.12
7:10 PM	High Tide	1.78

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Germany's leader vows to fix spending crisis

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Friday promised quick action to fix a budget crisis after a court decision blew a large hole in the almost-finished plan for next year and threatened to disrupt spending on efforts to fight climate change and cushion the impact of high energy prices caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"Some are asking whether the financial support from the federal government, which caps high energy prices, can keep flowing or must be paid back," he said in a video posted to X, formerly known as Twitter. "Those are "justifiable questions."

Scholz said, however, that the government is "firm in our intention to modernize our country, so that in future, we have strong industry, good jobs and good pay when our economy is climate neutral."

Scholz's reassurances come as the budget crisis threatens to exacerbate problems in the world's worst-performing major developed economy. Figures released Friday laid those issues bare.

Europe's largest economy contracted 0.1% in the July-to-September quarter as inflation eroded people's willingness to spend, Germany's statistics office said.

Germany is the only major economy expected to shrink this year, according to the International Monetary Fund, which foresees a decline of 0.5%.

Meanwhile, the closely watched Ifo institute survey of business optimism showed a tiny uptick to 87.3 for November from 86.9 in October but remained well below its July level, meaning business confidence is still in the dumps.

The country's budget crisis raises the possibility of spending cuts next year, which economists say would worsen the challenges facing the stagnating German economy. It's struggling to adapt to long-term challenges such as a shortage of skilled workers and the loss of cheap natural gas from Russia after the invasion of Ukraine.

A court ruled last week that previous spending violated constitutional limits on deficits, forcing Scholz's government to put off a final vote on next year's spending plan and search for ways to fill a 60 billion euro ($65 billion) budget hole over this year and next.

The country's Constitutional Court ruled that the government could not repurpose unused funding meant to ease the impact of COVID-19 into projects to fight climate change and offer relief to consumers and businesses hit with high energy costs.

Court document claims Meta knowingly designed platforms to hook kids

SAN FRANCISO (AP)—Facebook parent Meta Platforms deliberately engineered its social platforms to hook kids and knew—but never disclosed—that it had received millions of complaints about underage users on Instagram but only disabled a fraction of those accounts, according to a newly unsealed legal complaint described in reports from *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times.*

The complaint, originally made public in redacted form, was the opening salvo in a lawsuit filed in late October by the attorneys general of 33 states.

According to the reports, Meta said in a statement that the complaint misrepresents its work over the past decade to make the online experience safe for teens and said it doesn't design its products to be addictive to younger users. Meta didn't immediately provide a comment on the unredacted complaint following a request from The Associated Press.

Company documents cited in the complaint described several Meta officials acknowledging that the company designed its products to exploit shortcomings in youthful psychology such as impulsive behavior, susceptibility to peer pressure and the underestimation of risks, according to the reports. Others acknowledged that Facebook and Instagram were also popular with children under age 13, who, per company policy, were not allowed to use the service.

One Facebook safety executive alluded to the possibility that cracking down on younger users might hurt the company's business in a 2019 email, according to the Journal report. But a year later the same executive expressed frustration that while Facebook readily studied the usage of underage users for business reasons, it didn't show the same enthusiasm for ways to identify younger kids and remove them from its platforms.

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
RFP24-CHCC/HIT-EMR/EHR-002

"COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER CERTIFIED ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT"

Notice to Offerors

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the "Community Health Center Certified Electronic Health Record Implementation Project" (RFP24-CHCC/HIT-EMR/EHR-002) is available on this website; **https: //www.chcc.health/RFP/requestforproposal.php.**

Issuer Information
This RFP is issued by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) of the Northern Marianas Islands, 1178 Hinemlu St. Garapan, Saipan MP 96950.

Notice of Intent to Submit a Proposal
Interested offerors must email a "Notice of Intent to Submit a Proposal" to Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Procurement Director, Cora Ada, at cora.ada@chcc.health as soon as practicable. This notice ensures that all interested parties receive relevant information on RFP updates or questions. While this step is crucial, it does not bind the offeror to make a submission. If an interested offeror fails to submit a notice of intent, they acknowledge and accept the risk of potentially missing crucial information.

All notices of intent to submit a proposal must include the RFP number (RFP24-CHCC/HIT EMR/EHR-002) and project title, "Community Health Center Certified Electronic Health Record Implementation Project", in the subject line. The content of the email should state the Offeror organization name, at least one primary email contact, and a brief statement of intent to submit a proposal.

Communication Protocol
Questions about this RFP will only be received in writing via email to CHCC Director of IT, Bel Busby at bel.busby@chcc.health and CHCC Procurement Director, Cora Ada at cora.ada@chcc.health with the RFP number and project title as the subject. Questions communicated verbally may not be answered. Offerors must avoid direct communication about this RFP with other CHCC staff members.

RFP Timeline
- Deadline for Offeror questions is **3:00 P.M. (Chamorro Standard Time), December 7th, 2023.**
- Final proposals must be submitted as docx or pdf attachments via email to Cora.Ada@chcc.health and must be received by **4:30 P.M. (Chamorro Standard Time), December 15th, 2023.**
- Late proposals won't be accepted.

ANTONIO SN. BORJA Chairman · JAMES M. MENDIOLA Vice Chairman · HENRY H. SAN NICOLAS Member · DONALD M. HOFSCHNEIDER Member · CHARLENE M. LIZAMA Executive Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS[1]

III. NEW BUSINESS
a. ED Recommendation No. 2023-04

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
a. Status Update of Bridge Investment Group/Tinian Diamond Casino and Pending Issues Affecting the Opening of the Casino Operations

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION[2]

VI. ADJOURNMENT

[1] *Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.*
[2] *Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.*

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WILLIAM KAIPAT RABAULIMAN, individually and as Administrator of the ESTATE OF MANUEL SAURES KAIPAT,	] CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0323
Plaintiff, v.	] ORDER TO APPEAR AND PLEAD
VICKY JEAN CASTRO, the HEIRS OF GUILLERMO LITULUMAR SAURES, the HEIRS OF ANTONIO SAURES, and the HEIRS OF VICTORINO SANTOS CASTRO	]
Defendants.	]

IT IS ORDERED that the Heirs of Antonio Saures shall appear and plead in this matter on December 4, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A.

SO ORDERED this 16th day of November, 2023.

/s/
KENNETH L. GOVENDO,
Associate Judge

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 11925 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp
Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) hereby gives notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on **Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Office Conference Room, on Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes **(07/26/2023)**
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
- **A.** Executive Director's Contract Renewal
- **B.** Upcoming Vacancy on the Board – Tinian Representative

VII. Director's Report
- **A.** FY2024 Annual Budget
- **B.** Financial Report – BPL Revolving Fund
- **C.** Office Operations
- **D.** Online Payment Update
- **E.** 2023 Citizens Centric Report
- **F.** Upcoming National Boards Zoning and Annual Meetings for 2024

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
- **A.** Governor's Office
  1. Memo from SAA for Fiscal Restraint
  2. Directive 2024-001 – Modification of Government Hours for the Executive Branch
- **B.** Legislature

X. Old Business
- **A.** EA Regulations Update

XI. New Business
- **A.** Violations of Laws and BPL Regulations (§125-20.1-1001)
- **B.** Election of officers

XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
- **A.** New Application
- **B.** Renewal Applications

XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
- **A.** Next Meeting Date
- **B.** Adjournment of Meeting

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2024

Opening date: November 24, 2023 Closing date: December 22, 2023

Location: SAIPAN	SALARY
Position(s): (1) Saipan Airport Manager	$70,000 (UNGRADED)
(1) Comptroller	$80,000 (UNGRADED)

Location: ROTA	SALARY
Position(s): (1) Rota Ports Manager	$55,000 (UNGRADED)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00P.M. on Friday, December 22, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Nation

GOP wants to pair border security with Ukraine aid

WASHINGTON (AP)—As Congress returns to session this week, lawmakers will be trying to forge an agreement on sending a new round of wartime assistance to Ukraine. But to succeed, they will have to find agreement on an issue that has confounded them for decades.

Republicans in both chambers of Congress have made clear that they will not support additional aid for Ukraine unless it is paired with border security measures to help manage the influx of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border. Their demand has injected one of the most contentious issues in American politics into a foreign policy debate that was already difficult.

Time is short for a deal.

A small, bipartisan group in the Senate is taking the lead and working to find a narrow compromise that can overcome a likely filibuster by winning 60 votes. But even if they can reach a modest agreement, there is no guarantee it would pass the House, where Republicans are insisting on wholesale changes to U.S. border and immigration policies.

Republicans hope that Democrats will feel political pressure to accept some of their border proposals after illegal crossings topped a daily average of more than 8,000 earlier this fall. President Joe Biden, who is running for reelection next year, has faced pressure even from fellow Democrats over the migrant flow.

No matter what, finding compromise will be exceedingly difficult. As they left for Thanksgiving break, Senate negotiators said they were still far apart.

A look at some of the issues under discussion and why they have proved so difficult to resolve:

Asylum and humanitarian parole

Changing the asylum system for migrants is a top priority for Republicans. They want to make it more difficult for asylum-seekers to prove in initial interviews that they have a credible fear of political, religious or racial persecution in their home country before advancing toward asylum in the United States.

Republicans in the House have passed legislation that would detain families at the border, require migrants to make the asylum claim at an official port of entry and either detain them or require them to remain outside the U.S. while their case is processed.

U.S. and international law give migrants the right to seek safety from persecution, but the number of people applying for asylum in the U.S. has reached historic highs. Critics say many people take advantage of the system to live and work in the U.S. while they wait for their asylum claims to be processed in court.

Arizona Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, an independent who is part of the Senate negotiations, said in an Arizona radio interview that one of lawmakers' goals is to ensure that "those who are here seeking asylum have an actual claim to asylum."

Compromise is far from certain. Many Democrats are wary of making it harder to flee persecution, and the details of each policy shift are contentious.

Hardline conservatives in the House, already unlikely to support further Ukraine aid, have also signaled they won't accept policy changes that deviate much from a bill passed in May that would have remade the U.S. immigration system. Their stance means at least some support from House Democrats will be needed to pass any agreement—no easy task.

Some progressives have already said they will oppose any Republican-led changes to immigration policy.

What Biden is asking for

Biden's emergency request to Congress included aid for Ukraine, Israel and other U.S. allies, along with $14 billion to bolster the immigration system and border security. Money would go toward hiring more border patrol agents, immigration judges and asylum officers. It's part of Biden's strategy of trying to simultaneously turn away from Trump's hard-line policies but adapt to the realities of crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Still, polls indicate widespread frustration with Biden's handling of immigration and the border, creating a political vulnerability as he seeks reelection. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told the Senate Appropriations Committee this month that the administration has been faced with a "global phenomenon" of displaced people migrating in numbers that have not been seen since World War II.

"It is unanimous that our broken immigration system is in dire need of reform," Mayorkas said.

Democrats have other immigration priorities, such as expanding legal immigration pathways or work authorizations for migrants already in the U.S. Democrats have also warned about the danger of delaying aid to Ukraine as it enters another winter of war against Russia.

Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the second-ranking Democrat in the Senate, said it's a mistake to create a situation where "we have to do significant immigration reform in the next few weeks or we won't send money to assist the people in Ukraine or other causes important to our national security."

What's likely not on the table

Lawmakers seem unlikely to address one of the nation's long-standing immigration issues: granting some form of permanent legal status to thousands of immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children. Republicans have made clear that will not be addressed in this package, which they want to be more narrowly focused on border security measures.

As Congress struggled to pass a comprehensive immigration overhaul, President Barack Obama launched the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in 2012 to shield those immigrants from deportation and allow them to work legally in the country. But it has been caught up in the courts ever since, and Trump, the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination in 2024, tried to end it when he was in the White House.

Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut, one of the Senate negotiators, would not say early last week whether his side had proposed DACA provisions as part of the talks. But he said any deal "has to respect both Republican and Democratic priorities."

"The more Republicans want, the more Democrats are going to want," Murphy said.

Republicans argue that Ukraine aid could be a tough sell to some of their voters, and the border policy is the compromise.

Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton, a Republican who has been involved in the talks, said before the Thanksgiving holiday that the negotiations were not "very close yet, because Democrats have not yet accepted that the negotiations are not border security for Democratic immigration priorities. It's border security for Ukraine aid."

World

Hamas releases third group of hostages as part of truce

AP

This handout photo provided by Haim Zach/GPO shows Sharon Hertzman, right, hugging a relative as they reunite at Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan, Israel, Saturday Nov. 25, 2023.

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—The fragile cease-fire between Israel and Hamas was back on track Sunday as the militants freed 17 more hostages, including 14 Israelis and the first American, in a third exchange under a four-day truce that the United States said it hoped would be extended. In turn, Israel released 39 Palestinian prisoners.

Most hostages were handed over directly to Israel, waving to a cheering crowd as they arrived at an air force base. Others left through Egypt. Israel's army said one was airlifted to a hospital, and the director of Soroka Medical Center said Elma Avraham, 84, was in life-threatening condition as "a result of an extended period of time when an elderly woman was not taken care of as needed."

The youngest hostage released was Abigail Edan, a 4-year-old girl and dual Israeli-American citizen whose parents were killed in the Hamas attack that started the war on Oct. 7.

"What she endured was unthinkable," U.S. President Joe Biden said of the first American freed under the truce. He did not know her condition and did not provide updates on other American hostages. Biden said his goal was to extend the cease-fire deal as long as possible.

In all, nine children ages 17 and younger were on the list, according to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office. Three more Thai nationals were released. Separately, Hamas said it released a Russian hostage "in response to the efforts of Russian President Vladimir Putin."

The three Thai nationals were undergoing health checks at a medical center in Israel and brought the total number of Thai hostages released to 17, Thailand's Foreign Ministry said. The ministry said it was pursuing efforts for the safe release of the 15 remaining Thai hostages. Thais working in Israel are mostly employed as semi-skilled farm laborers, at wages considerably higher than those at they can earn at home.

The Palestinian prisoners released were children and young men, ages 15-19, largely accused of public disorder, property damage and in some cases causing or threatening physical harm to Israeli officers by throwing stones and Molotov cocktails. Many were scooped up from protests and confrontations with troops. In turn, many Palestinians view prisoners held by Israel, including those implicated in attacks, as heroes resisting occupation.

Russia says defenses down dozens of Ukrainian drones bound for Moscow

Ukraine tried to attack Moscow with dozens of drones, Russian authorities said Sunday, just a day after Ukrainian officials reported that Russia had launched its most intense drone attack on Kyiv since the beginning of its full-scale war in 2022.

Russian air defenses brought down at least 24 drones over the Moscow region—which surrounds but doesn't include the capital—and four other provinces to the south and west, the Russian Defense Ministry and Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin reported in a series of Telegram updates. Neither referenced any casualties.

Andrei Vorobyev, governor of the Moscow region, wrote on Telegram that the drone strikes damaged three unspecified buildings there, adding that no one was hurt.

One drone crashed into a 12-story apartment building in the western Russian city of Tula, about 180 kilometers (113 miles) south of Moscow, slightly wounding one resident and causing limited damage, local Gov. Aleksei Dyumin wrote on Telegram on Sunday morning.

Moscow's Vnukovo and Domodedovo airports also briefly shut down because of the drone attack, according to Russian state-run news agency Tass. Both appeared to have resumed normal operation by 6 a.m. local time Sunday, according to data from international flight tracking portals.

Russian Telegram channels speculated that Ukrainian forces had deployed a previously unseen type of drone in the purported strike, pointing out some similarities to the Iranian-made weapons Moscow routinely employs in its attacks on Ukraine.

The Russian capital has come under attack from drones regularly since May, with Russian officials blaming Ukraine. Military analysts commented at the time that the early attacks deployed Ukrainian locally-made drones, which couldn't carry as heavy a payload as the Iranian-made Shaheds used by Russia. ***(AP)***

Overdrive

2023 Honda Pilot gets the makeover it deserves

By MARC D. GRASSO
Boston Herald

While other manufacturers hurry to market with EV SUVs or tiptoe into the hybrid market, Honda continues to be the master of the consumer automobile market. In Grasso's Garage this week, we test-drive the flagship 2023 Honda Pilot Elite.

Our tester was the fourth-generation 2023 Honda Pilot Elite wrapped in Modern Steel Metallic. The largest SUV to date, the Pilot boasts a 113.8-inch wheelbase and length of almost 200 inches. Rugged and athletic, it stands 71 inches high and 67.5 inches wide. The redesigned exterior styling offers a large upright grille, powerful lower bumper and LED lights. Bigger tires and increased storage make the Honda Pilot the king of the carpool.

Seating is more comfortable than the third generation Pilot: There's eight-passenger available seating with a third row that has grown a half-inch and a second row that reclines 4 more degrees and gains 2 more inches in legroom. Front row changes include a high and wide center console with great storage, 14 total cupholders and cell phone charging for two. Cargo space grew 13.2 cubic feet to a total of 196.8 cubic feet.

The 10.2-inch drivers digital display is typical Honda with great visibility and technology, while the 9-inch touchscreen is easy to use. The Bose Premium Stereo has 12 speakers. Powering the 2023 Honda Pilot Elite, is a familiar 3.5-liter DOHC V-6 offering 285 horsepower and 262 pound-feet of torque. Paired with a 10-speed automatic transmission, this is Honda's first 10-speed which is very smooth for the AWD Pilot Elite. Seven drive modes, 5,000 pounds of towing capability and eight color options ensure that consumers have just about everything they can possibly need in choosing a family SUV.

As Honda continues to deliver realistically priced automobiles for consumers in many markets, the Pilot easily tops the family market. Honda vehicles' longevity, pricing and dependability have made the company what it is today. Add that to great design, utility and, what is most important for many, safety, and Honda is always a win in Grasso's Garage with the Pilot being the best flagship to date.

NUTS & BOLTS
- **MSRP:**$48,350
- **MPG:** 18 city / 23 highway / 20.4 as tested
- **As Tested:**$50,150

HONDA/TNS

The 2023 Honda Pilot Elite.

Mazda shows off the 2023 MX-5 Miata nicely

By MARC D. GRASSO
Boston Herald

The Mazda Miata has been a fan favorite for many years, and in 2023 as the MX-5 Miata it gives drivers a big reason to com back for more: the six-speed manual transmission!

Our Grand Touring tester was wrapped in Zircon Sand Metallic with a Black interior that showed out very well. Its recently upgraded body curvatures, sightline improvements and interior aesthetics were just a few selling points, while the price under $40K will make this sports car a good choice for many.

NUTS & BOLTS
- **MSRP:**$35,750
- **MPG:** 26 city / 34 highway / 29.2 as tested
- **As Tested:**$37,120

MARC GRASSO/BOSTON HERALD/TNS

2023 Mazda MX-5.

Although the seats and interior space were tighter than any Corvette I have ever owned, the 2023 MX-5 Miata was specifically designed for smaller people rather than a full-framed person like myself. Space constraints notwithstanding, the Mazda MX-5 Miata is really fun to drive. The six-speed manual transmission is awesome and very easy to shift—enjoyable on all types of roads. Powering the MX-5 Miata is the brand famous 2.0L Skyactiv DOHC 4-cylinder engine, producing 180 horsepower and 151 pound-feet of torque. Keeping in mind these numbers are significantly low for a normal sedan but with a curb weight of under 2,400 pounds, these are powerful numbers.

The interior has a center console volume knob and turn dial for controlling the infotainment system; the small 7-inch color screen is very plain, yet easy to use. The Bose Stereo system was pleasant regardless of whether the top was up or not.

Exterior appearance is what stands out the most for me on the MX-5 Miata. The hard-top convertible, the new curvatures and nice Mazda-famous fascia make it one heck of a fun automobile. As the hard-top stows in the trunk, space is certainly designed for daily cruising and not carrying luggage or groceries. While specifically designed for smaller frame folks, off to summer months this goes and fun it will be.

Feeling the pressure

MOTORMOUTH
BY BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide *and* Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: I purchased a new set of four Bridgestone Turanza all-season touring tires for my 2014 Mercedes E350, replacing the OEM Continentals. The installer (Costco) then set the tire pressures on all four tires at 42 psi, although the tire pressure information from inside my car said to inflate the fronts to 33 psi and to 35 for the rears at normal load. I usually take short trips by myself or with one passenger, so I presume that would be a normal load.

I called Bridgestone, and the customer service rep there advised me that 42 psi for all four tires is the correct setting for this particular set. However, when I took my car in for service at the local (Virginia Beach, Virginia) Mercedes dealership, they re-set all four tires to 35 psi and told me that was the correct setting.

I'm retired, and I'm worried about prematurely wearing out this expensive set of tires.

C.C., Chesapeake, Virginia

A: Much engineering and testing go into determining the correct tire pressure. Carmakers consider handling, safety and comfort among other factors. They don't pull those figures out of the air. (Yeah, weak pun.)

■■■

Q: I'm the original owner of a 2009 Nissan Rogue S with 136,000 miles. Been a great car. Last week the remotes failed to lock or open the car. I changed batteries in both remotes—and both still wouldn't work. I called Nissan service, and they were not helpful. Might there be a fuse that failed? I'm not seeing one listed in my owner's manual.

M.R., North Oaks, Minnesota

A: The most common problem is a bad key fob battery, but you have already eliminated that. Perhaps the contacts inside the fobs are worn. The receiver module in the car may have failed or your key fobs may simply need to be reprogrammed or re-paired with the car.

■■■

Q: I'm having issues with my 2007 Ford Focus. It has 154,000 miles and a standard transmission. It's hard to shift into first and reverse. I've been shutting the car off to put into either of those gears. Most times, going forward I just start in second gear. Also, my car moves when I start it. Usually I have the brake on, but shouldn't it stay still, if I have the clutch in? Thoughts on the fix for both and estimated cost. I enjoy reading your article every Saturday in the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

M.E. St. Louis Park, Minnesota

A: Most likely, the clutch is not fully disengaging, its dragging. Two possibilities come to mind. First is a problem with the clutch hydraulic system—either the master cylinder or the slave, which is incorporated with the release bearing.

The second problem is likely the release bearing/slave assembly itself. Make sure your clutch reservoir is full of fluid. If full, you need to take your vehicle to a professional technician. Expect to pay around $800.

Life & Style

Paris Hilton announces the arrival of a baby daughter, London

Paris Hilton had a Thanksgiving surprise to share: a daughter named London.

Hilton

Hilton on Friday shared an Instagram photo of a pink baby outfit with "London" printed on the top.

"Thankful for my baby girl," read the caption.

She followed with several Thanksgiving TikToks that further demystified the new arrival, including one in which she and husband Carter Reum chant "big brother" to their baby son Phoenix. London was welcomed via surrogate, Hilton's representative confirmed to The Associated Press on Friday.

Hilton has been open about her journey to motherhood, freezing eggs and surrogacy. On her podcast earlier this year, Hilton had said that she was excited for Phoenix to have a baby sister named London.

"It's my favorite city and I've always wanted to name my daughter London," Hilton said at the time. "I had actually picked that name for a long time now, probably over 10 years. I always wanted London. I love that name for my daughter."

Hilton and Reum announced the arrival of Phoenix, also via surrogate, in January. The couple married in a lavish ceremony in November 2021. ***(AP)***

WITH DYSTOPIAN NOVEL 'PROPHET SONG'

Irish writer Paul Lynch wins Booker Prize

LONDON (AP)—Irish writer Paul Lynch won the Booker Prize for fiction on Sunday with what judges called a "soul-shattering" novel about a woman's struggle to protect her family as Ireland collapses into totalitarianism and war.

"Prophet Song," set in a dystopian fictional version of Dublin, was awarded the 50,000-pound ($63,000) literary prize at a ceremony in London. Canadian writer Esi Edugyan, who chaired the judging panel, said the book is "a triumph of emotional storytelling, bracing and brave" in which Lynch "pulls off feats of language that are stunning to witness."

Lynch, 46, had been the bookies' favorite to win the prestigious prize, which usually brings a big boost in sales. His book beat five other finalists from Ireland, the U.K., the U.S. and Canada, chosen from 163 novels submitted by publishers.

"This was not an easy book to write," Lynch said after being handed the Booker trophy. "The rational part of me believed I was dooming my career by writing this novel, though I had to write the book anyway. We do not have a choice in such matters."

Lynch has called "Prophet Song," his fifth novel, an attempt at "radical empathy" that tries to plunge readers into the experience of living in a collapsing society.

"I was trying to see into the modern chaos," he told the Booker website. "The unrest in Western democracies. The problem of Syria—the implosion of an entire nation, the scale of its refugee crisis and the West's indifference. … I wanted to deepen the reader's immersion to such a degree that by the end of the book, they would not just know, but feel this problem for themselves."

The five prize judges met to pick the winner on Saturday, less than 48 hours after far-right violence erupted in Dublin following a stabbing attack on a group of children. Edugyan said that immediate events didn't directly influence the choice of winner.

Lynch said he was "astonished" by the riots "and at the same time I recognized the truth that this kind of energy is always there under the surface."

He said "Prophet Song"—written over four years starting in 2018—"is a counterfactual novel. It's not a prophetic statement."

"I wrote the book to articulate the message that the things that are happening in this book are occurring timelessly throughout the ages and maybe we need to deepen our own responses to that," he told reporters.

The other finalists were Irish writer Paul Murray's "The Bee Sting;" American novelist Paul Harding's "This Other Eden;" Canadian author Sarah Bernstein's "Study for Obedience;" U.S. writer Jonathan Escoffery's "If I Survive You;" and British author Chetna Maroo's "Western Lane."

Edugyan said the choice of winner wasn't unanimous, but the six-hour judges' meeting wasn't acrimonious.

Tiffany Haddish arrested on suspicion of DUI in Beverly Hills

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Tiffany Haddish was arrested Friday on suspicion of driving under the influence, police said.

Haddish

The actor and comedian was detained after Beverly Hills police received a call about 5:45 a.m. Police said she appeared to be found slumped over the wheel of the vehicle while the car engine was still running.

Haddish, an Emmy and Grammy winner, performed at the Laugh Factory in Los Angeles on Thursday night. It was the comedy club's 43rd annual free Thanksgiving feast for the community.

A representative for Haddish did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

Last year, Haddish was arrested on suspicion of DUI in suburban Atlanta.

Haddish has starred in the films including the comedy "Girls Trip," "Night School," "Like a Boss" and "The Kitchen." She wrote the New York Times best seller "The Last Black Unicorn," which earned a Grammy nomination.

In 2018, Haddish won an Emmy for her appearance on "Saturday Night Live" and a Grammy in 2021 for her special "Black Mitzvah."

'Hunger Games' feasts, 'Napoleon' conquers at box office

NEW YORK (AP)—The Walt Disney Co.'s "Wish" had been expected to rule the Thanksgiving weekend box office, but moviegoers instead feasted on leftovers, as "The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" led ticket sales for the second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Neither of the weekend's top new releases—"Wish" and Ridley Scott's "Napoleon"—could keep up with Lionsgate's "Hunger Games" prequel. After debuting the previous weekend with $44.6 million, the return to Panem proved the top draw for holiday moviegoers, grossing $28.8 million over the weekend and $42 million over the five-day holiday frame.

In two weeks of release, "Songbirds and Snakes" has grossed nearly $100 million domestically and $200 million globally.

The closer contest was for second place, where "Napoleon" narrowly outmaneuvered "Wish." Scott's epic outperformed expectations to take $32.5 million over the five-day weekend and an estimated $20.4 million Friday through Sunday. The film, starring Joaquin Phoenix as the French emperor and Vanessa Kirby as his wife Joséphine de Beauharnais, was also the top movie globally with $78.8 million.

Reviews were mixed (61% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and ticket buyers were nonplussed (a "B-" CinemaScore), but "Napoleon" fared far better in theaters than its subject did at Waterloo.

"Napoleon," like Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon," is a big-budget statement by Apple Studios of the streamer's swelling Hollywood ambitions. With an estimated budget of $200 million, "Napoleon" may still have a long road to reach profitability for Apple, which partnered with Sony to distribute "Napoleon" theatrically. But it's an undeniably strong beginning for an adult-skewing 168-minute historical drama.

"Wish," however, had been supposed to have a more starry-eyed start. Disney Animation releases like "Frozen II" ($123.7 million over five days in 2019), "Ralph Breaks the Internet" ($84.6 million in 2018) and "Coco" ($71 million in 2017), have often owned Thanksgiving moviegoing.

Readers detail options for tech-averse writer

DEAR ABBY: This is in response to "Love My Cheap Phone" (Aug. 28). As a millennial who has worked in retail my whole adult life, I'm tired of the excuse that the older generation can't or won't use smartphones.

Personal computers have been out for decades, and smartphones have been around more than 16 years. Like the automatic transmission, these things are designed to make our lives easier and should be embraced rather than shunned. I've had people cuss me out over not being able to access discounts due to not having a smartphone—going so far as to claim discrimination.

The only person holding them back is themself, and most of the time smartphones are more intuitive than previously thought. They also all don't cost $1,000; many basic use smartphones can be bought for under $200, not to mention certain phone companies offer big discounts on people's first smartphone with a new account. I don't feel bad for "Love." I suggest they get with the times, because these devices aren't going away.

MILLENNIAL IN OREGON

DEAR MILLENNIAL: Thank you for writing. After that letter appeared, I was inundated with comments from readers. Some of them agreed with you. Other readers understood "Love's" point and offered suggestions for transitioning more easily to a modern communication device. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I'm a senior with mobility issues, and I couldn't live without my smartphone. It is not a "toy." I use it to fill my prescriptions, schedule medical appointments, check test results and communicate with my doctors. I do most of my shopping, conduct all of my banking online, call up ride-sharing, make travel arrangements and keep in touch with friends and family. I encourage "Love" to open their mind a bit.

ONLINE SENIOR IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY: There is a government program, Lifeline (go to fcc.gov), that provides a FREE smartphone and phone service to low-income people. If someone chooses not to have a smartphone for other reasons, that's their choice—but no one should go without one because they cannot afford it.

MARY IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR ABBY: Some states offer the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) which provides free phone service with smartphones AND TABLETS to low-income individuals or those receiving Social Security. A tablet might be the better option to use for the kind of interactions the writer described.

HOPEFULLY HELPING OUT WEST

DEAR ABBY: I'm guessing "Love" has family and friends who have older phones in the junk drawers of their homes. (We do.) Perhaps someone would be willing to part with one. Also, AARP offers classes to learn how to use a smartphone, which I suspect is behind your writer's reluctance to modernize.

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

KRISTIN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR ABBY: As a retired librarian who has helped many seniors with their technology, the idea of a $1,000 smartphone is akin to thinking that all cars are Rolls Royces. Many phones can be had for under $200, and some for less than $100. A number of cellphone and service providers cater to seniors trying to transition from their beloved flip phones. I urge "Love" to visit their local library and see what advice they can get there.

MR. G. IN SYRACUSE, N.Y.

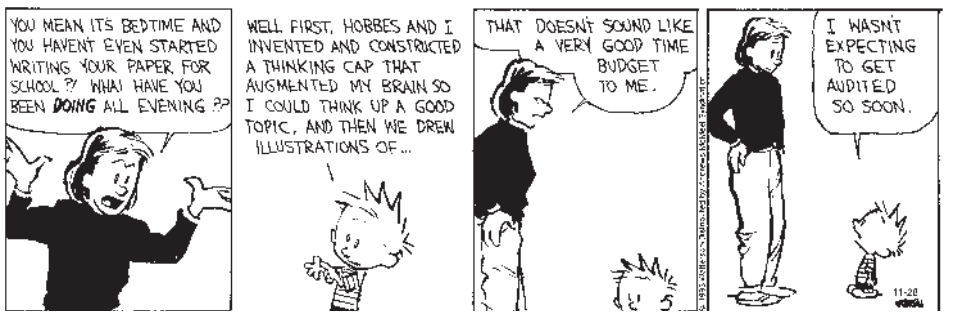
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

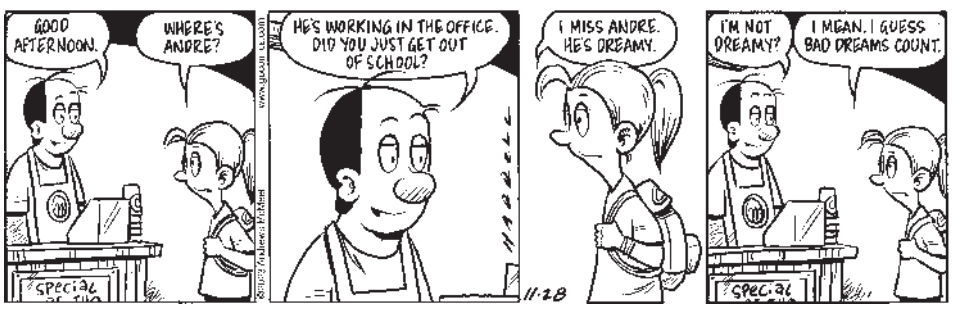

YOU MEAN ITS BEDTIME AND YOU HAVENT EVEN STARTED WRITING YOUR PAPER FOR SCHOOL ?? WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING ALL EVENING ??
WELL FIRST, HOBBES AND I INVENTED AND CONSTRUCTED A THINKING CAP THAT AUGMENTED MY BRAIN SO I COULD THINK UP A GOOD TOPIC, AND THEN WE DREW ILLUSTRATIONS OF...
THAT DOESNT SOUND LIKE A VERY GOOD TIME BUDGET TO ME.
I WASNT EXPECTING TO GET AUDITED SO SOON.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


GOOD AFTERNOON.
WHERE'S ANDRE?
HE'S WORKING IN THE OFFICE. DID YOU JUST GET OUT OF SCHOOL?
I MISS ANDRE. HE'S DREAMY.
I'M NOT DREAMY?
I MEAN, I GUESS BAD DREAMS COUNT.
11-28

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHY ARE YOU SMILING?
THESE DOGS IN THE COMICS LIKE SNOOPY, GRIMMY, AND EARL ARE REALLY FUNNY.
I GOTTA TELL YOU... SOMETIMES I FEEL UNDER-APPRECIATED.
HMM... THAT'S SILLY.
SILLY? LET'S SEE... KNOCK-KNOCK
WOULD YOU MIND GETTING THE DOOR?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

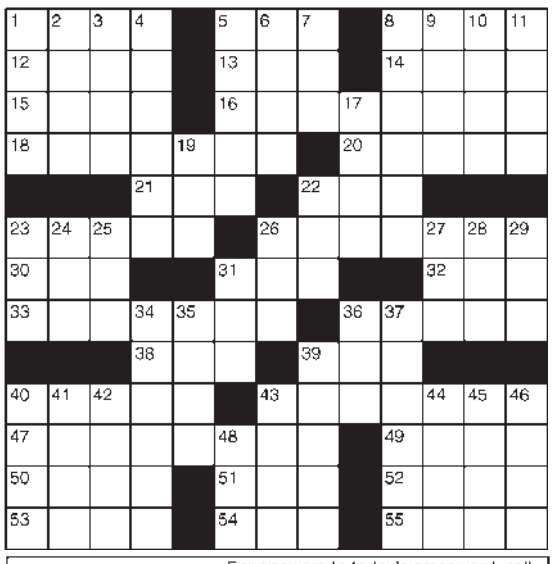
ACROSS
1 Free ticket
5 HBO competitor
8 Bean curd
12 Killer whale
13 Cornfield noise
14 Abbr. on a phone
15 Stitched line
16 "Things are okay ..."
18 Muck-raker Ida
20 Bombards
21 Sound booster
22 Standard
23 Low-voiced singer
26 Move more goods than
30 Smart-phone download
31 Little lie
32 Singer Carly — Jepsen
33 Battery
36 Zingers
38 Nabokov novel
39 D.C. figure
40 Humiliate
43 Metallic percussion instrument
47 "Sex and the City" author Candace
49 Sheltered
50 Huron neighbor
51 Grazing land
52 Pinta's companion
53 Boot camp VIPs
54 Supporting
55 "Amen!"

DOWN
1 Blog entry
2 Region
3 Bar fight souvenir
4 Brazilian dances
5 Place for a massage
6 Corridor
7 Barn bird
8 Skyscrapers
9 Autobahn auto
10 Fedora fabric
11 Web addresses
17 Quarrel
19 Moody rock genre
22 Tavern
23 Misbehaving
24 Earth Day mo.
25 Secret agent
26 Peanut product
27 Blunder
28 Science room
29 Guitar great Paul
31 St. with a panhandle
34 Redeems, as a check
35 Utopia
36 Fiddle stick
37 New York's capital
39 Of the Arctic
40 Fortas and Lincoln
41 Small town
42 "Be that — may ..."
43 Jazz singer Laine
44 Writer Wiesel
45 Sultry Horne
46 Wife of Jacob
48 Sprite

Solution time: 22 mins.

C	A	R	P		A	B	S		A	A	R	E
A	L	A	N		N	A	P		C	N	E	T
L	E	T	O		T	R	I	B	U	T	E	S
S	C	A	M	P	I		N	C	T	I	F	Y
			P	A	G	E		Y	E	N		
H	L	A	I	S	O	D	A		R	U	E	D
D	I	N		O	N	I	N	D		K	I	A
R	O	T	C		F	N	T	I	R	I	I	Y
		I	L	L		S	I	R	I			
E	C	H	O	E	S		M	E	D	I	A	N
G	U	E	S	S	W	H	O		D	R	N	O
G	E	R	E		I	A	N		L	O	N	G
O	D	O	H		I	H	Y		E	N	O	S

Yesterday's answer 11-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Kwanten, 47; Jon Stewart, 61; Ed Harris, 73; Paul Shaffer, 74.

Happy Birthday: Formulate your thoughts and execute your intentions. Sending clear messages will determine how well you do this year. When in doubt, ask; time is precious, and mixed messages will slow you down. Surround yourself with like-minded people and those you know you can rely on to give you good advice. Make kindness and compassion mandatory, address sensitive issues and pay more attention to loved ones. Your numbers are 8, 19, 23, 35, 36, 39, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: Don't sit idle when taking the initiative and participating in what's happening is the path to new beginnings. Everyone will not welcome an aggressive plan, but you must do what's best for you. Meetings, updates and taking on new responsibilities will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: Keep track of your money. Don't give anyone access to personal information. Play by the rules; be responsible financially and emotionally, take control and make your intentions clear. A change or move needs careful consideration. Don't fold under pressure. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: Emotions will escalate if you or someone close withholds information or true feelings. If you can't decide what to do, revert to taking care of your responsibilities to avoid complaints while you figure out what's next. Personal growth is favored. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: Trust and honesty matter. You may have to step outside your comfort zone and be blunt about what you can and cannot tolerate. Look for opportunities that offer greater freedom to pursue what you enjoy doing most. Get offers or promises in writing. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: Speak up and join in the conversation, and you'll build confidence and make beneficial connections. Simplify how you handle your responsibilities. Let go of what's no longer worthwhile and replace it with new skills that allow you to get more done and lower your overhead. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Push to make a move. Refuse to let your emotions or someone else's mislead you. Look for opportunities based on what you already have going for you to use in a diverse and marketable manner. Choose progressive change over anger and chaos. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Experience is the key to getting ahead. Attend a seminar, networking event or reunion that offers exciting conversations that will spark your imagination and point you in the right direction. Share your thoughts and build a good rapport with individuals who have something to offer. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: Stick to your plan, regardless of temptation or pressure. Joint ventures aren't likely to turn out as expected. Trust your intuition, and avoid getting caught in someone else's plans. Take responsibility and do what's best for you. A positive change is overdue. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: Listen, verify information and act. Taking care of matters swiftly will help build a solid reputation. Don't give in to emotional manipulation; be clear about your priorities and keep moving forward. Avoid being pressured into signing up for something you can't afford or fulfill. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Someone will test your patience if you let them. Stay balanced and choose your words wisely. You'll accomplish more if you work alone, follow your intuition and look for innovative ways to make your surroundings conducive to achieving your dreams. Personal growth is favored. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: Make your surroundings feel like home. Put your personal touch on whatever you do, and it will give you the confidence and peace of mind you need to push forward. Take on projects that benefit you, and use your skills to further your interests. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: Emotional manipulation is apparent. Be a good listener, know when to say no, and don't ask for too much or embellish the truth. You'll achieve the most if you avoid arguments, pay attention to detail and finish what you start. Personal change is encouraged. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are impressive, proactive and entertaining. You are demonstrative and benevolent.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				1		7		
	9			7		3	4	
5	3				2		1	9
	4							7
7	5	1		3	4			6
			7		1	4	5	
	8	9	6				7	
	1	5	2			8		3
3	7			5	8		9	4

Difficulty: ★★ 11/28

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	7	8	4	1	5	3	6	9
9	5	4	6	3	8	7	1	2
3	1	6	7	2	9	5	8	4
1	4	5	9	6	3	2	7	8
8	9	3	2	4	7	6	5	1
7	6	2	5	8	1	4	9	3
6	8	9	3	5	4	1	2	7
4	2	7	1	9	6	8	3	5
5	3	1	8	7	2	9	4	6

Difficulty: ★ 11/27

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SUZANNE SOMERS (1946-2023) **Solution: 8 letters**

S	K	I	T	S	L	O	O	F	Ⓢ	Ⓣ	Ⓔ	Ⓟ	T	Y
W	N	S	E	N	O	M	R	O	H	N	D	I	E	T
S	O	T	H	C	T	A	M	A	R	I	O	N	L	M
H	C	H	H	C	A	E	B	I	U	R	O	W	O	V
G	K	I	S	R	L	N	A	L	A	H	Y	C	I	C
U	O	G	E	E	E	L	N	E	A	O	T	L	V	A
O	U	H	Z	C	G	E	T	M	G	I	L	L	R	N
R	T	M	I	I	S	A	S	A	S	L	E	E	L	D
H	H	A	S	P	B	R	U	C	E	D	M	S	A	I
T	E	S	R	E	I	N	H	H	O	A	A	H	U	D
K	R	T	E	S	S	B	R	S	M	C	M	H	T	G	D
A	A	E	M	O	I	B	V	O	R	A	P	L	H	A
E	P	R	O	S	M	P	O	E	T	R	Y	A	I	I
R	Y	K	S	O	F	R	A	N	C	I	S	E	N	S
B	S	Y	B	S	S	E	N	L	L	E	W	H	G	Y

©2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 11/28

Alan, Ants, Beach, Bombshell, Books, Breakthrough, Bruce, Camelia, Camera, Candid, Chrissy, Daisy, Diet, Fools, Francis, Hamel, Health, Hormones, Knockout, Laughing, Learn, Legs, Mahoney, Marie, Marion, Match, Model, Poetry, Recipes, Sell, Show, Sitcom, Skits, Snow, Somersize, Step, Therapy, Thigh Master, Three's Company, Violet, Wellness, Yoga

Yesterday's Answer: Internet

The NEW Wonderword Grand Millennium #1 in LARGE PRINT is now available at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Hurts runs for OT winner among 5 total TDs as Eagles beat Bills

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Jalen Hurts scored the winning touchdown on a quarterback draw with 2:37 left in overtime, and the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Buffalo Bills 37-34 on a cold, rainy Sunday.

Hurts threw for three touchdowns and ran for two more, and he outdueled Buffalo's Josh Allen while rallying the Eagles from a 17-7 halftime deficit for the second straight game.

Philadelphia's Jake Elliott tied the game with a 59-yard field goal with 20 seconds remaining. After the Bills went ahead with a field goal on the first possession of OT, Hurts ran virtually untouched for the 12-yard score that made the Eagles the only 10-1 team in the NFL.

Allen threw for 339 yards and two touchdowns and ran for two scores for the Bills (6-6), who are in danger of missing the playoffs after winning the AFC East the past three years. But he was intercepted in the fourth quarter by James Bradbury, setting up Hurts' 29-yard TD pass to Olamide Zaccheaus for a 28-24 Philly lead.

Hurts finished 18 of 31 for 200 yards with an interception in a matchup of two of the NFL's most dynamic QBs. He had 14 carries for 65 yards.

AP

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts celebrates after scoring the game winning touchdown against the Buffalo Bills during overtime in an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023, in Philadelphia.

JAGUARS 24, TEXANS 21

HOUSTON (AP)—Trevor Lawrence threw for 364 yards and a touchdown, and AFC South-leading Jacksonville beat division rival Houston when Matt Ammendola's 58-yard field goal attempt bounced off the crossbar with 34 seconds left.

The Jaguars (8-3) avenged their 37-17 home loss to Houston (6-5) in Week 3 and created some separation at the top of the division.

C.J. Stroud, the second overall pick in the draft, thew for 304 yards and two touchdowns as Houston's three-game winning streak was snapped. He has 3,268 yards passing this season to move past Justin Herbert (3,224) for most in NFL history by a rookie in his first 11 games.

With Jacksonville clinging to a 24-21 lead, the Texans got a stop but couldn't move the ball. They settled for the long field goal attempt on fourth-and-12 instead of giving Stroud and their offense one more shot.

Lawrence threw a 1-yard TD pass to Calvin Ridley and connected with Ridley for the 2-point conversion to put the Texans ahead 21-14 midway through the third quarter.

RAVENS 20, CHARGERS 10

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Rookie Zay Flowers had a touchdown catch and ran for a game-sealing score late in the fourth quarter and Baltimore's defense forced four turnovers to beat Los Angeles.

Lamar Jackson threw for 177 yards and ran for 39 on 11 carries, becoming the fourth quarterback in NFL history to exceed 5,000 rushing yards — and the fastest by far to do it. Jackson has played 82 games, 22 fewer than it took Michael Vick to top 5,000.

The Chargers largely bottled up Jackson and the Ravens' offense in the second half, but Flowers put the game away when he took an end-around on third-and-2 and dashed for a 37-yard touchdown with 1:36 left.

Baltimore (9-3) heads into its bye week one-half game ahead of Kansas City, Jacksonville and Miami for the best record in the AFC.

Justin Herbert was 29 of 44 for 217 yards with a touchdown and an interception for the Chargers (4-7), who have lost three straight and are last in the AFC West. Keenan Allen had 14 receptions for 106 yards.

STEELERS 16, BENGALS 10

CINCINNATI (AP)—Kenny Pickett threw for a season-high 278 yards and Pittsburgh found new life on offense days after firing offensive coordinator Matt Canada, beating Joe Burrow-less Cincinnati.

The Steelers (7-4) totaled 421 yards, snapping a streak of 58 games without gaining 400 yards. Pat Freiermuth had a career-high 120 yards receiving as the Steelers, led by interim offensive coordinator Eddie Faulkner, outgained their opponent for the first time this season.

Chris Boswell kicked two fourth-quarter field goals to keep the Bengals at bay. Cincinnati (5-6) got a field goal from Evan McPherson just before the two-minute warning, but the Steelers recovered the onside kick and ran out the clock.

Bengals backup Jake Browning threw a touchdown pass in his first start but had trouble keeping the chains moving. He finished 19 for 26 for 227 yards and threw an interception in the red zone.

BRONCOS 29, BROWNS 12

DENVER (AP)—Russell Wilson accounted for two touchdowns and Denver's defense produced three more takeaways and a safety to beat injury-riddled Cleveland.

With their fifth consecutive victory, the Broncos (6-5) moved above .500 for the first time under coach Sean Payton.

The Browns (7-4) missed out on a chance to match their best start since 1999 and they lost several starters to injury, including rookie quarterback Dorian Thompson-Robinson (head) in his first road start. Also hurt were Myles Garrett (hand/wrist), Amari Cooper (rib) and Jordan Elliott (ankle).

Denver's defense has now collected a whopping 15 takeaways in the Broncos' last four games — their best four-game stretch since 1989.

Wilson threw an 8-yard touchdown pass to tight end Adam Trautman after defensive tackle D.J. Jones recovered a fumbled reverse at the Cleveland 20-yard line early in the fourth quarter, pushing the Broncos' lead to 24-12.

FALCONS 24, SAINTS 15

ATLANTA (AP)—Desmond Ridder overcame two interceptions by throwing a touchdown pass to Bijan Robinson in the fourth quarter, and Atlanta beat New Orleans to move into a tie for first place in the woeful NFC South.

The Saints (5-6) were limited by injury problems at wide receiver after losing Chris Olave (concussion) and Rashid Shaheed (thigh). New Orleans still outgained the Falcons 444-397 as Derek Carr passed for 304 yards but had to settle for five field goals by Blake Grupe.

The Falcons (5-6) snapped a three-game skid as Robinson ran for 91 yards with a touchdown.

Jessie Bates had a 92-yard interception return for a touchdown in the first quarter, and he forced a fumble in the third quarter with a hit on Taysom Hill. Albert Higgins recovered the ball at the Atlanta 5.

Ridder completed 13 of 21 passes for 168 yards with one touchdown and the two picks.

CHIEFS 31, RAIDERS 17

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Patrick Mahomes passed for 298 yards and two touchdowns, and Kansas City ended its three-game second-half scoring drought to rally past Las Vegas.

The Chiefs (8-3) fell behind 14-0 in the second quarter but tied it by halftime and pulled away after the break. Isiah Pacheco rushed for two touchdowns, and Rashee Rice caught eight passes for 107 yards and a TD.

Josh Jacobs rushed for 110 yards and a touchdown for the Raiders (5-7), ending a 12-game streak in which the Chiefs did not allow a 100-yard rusher. The NFL's reigning rushing champion also broke 1,000 yards from scrimmage to become the only player to reach that mark each year since 2019.

Las Vegas rookie Aidan O'Connell passed for 248 yards and a touchdown.

The Chiefs have held 11 consecutive opponents to 24 or fewer points, three off the team record. Kansas City extended its winning streak to six games over the Raiders, and the Chiefs have beaten their AFC West rival in 16 of the past 18 meetings.

COLTS 27, BUCCANEERS 20

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Jonathan Taylor ran for two scores, quarterback Gardner Minshew also had a rushing TD and Indianapolis beat Tampa Bay.

The Colts (6-5) won their third straight and climbed above .500 for the first time since the end of September with their second home victory of the season.

The two-time defending NFC South champion Bucs (4-7) have lost four straight road games and six of seven overall.

Indy gashed the Tampa Bay run defense for 155 yards and 5.7 yards per carry. Taylor had 15 carries for 91 yards and his first multiple-score game of the season. Zack Moss ran eight times for 55 yards.

The Colts took control early and never allowed the Bucs to completely recover after Baker Mayfield injured his right ankle on the game's opening series. Mayfield was intercepted by Ronnie Harrison Jr. on the Bucs' next possession, setting up Taylor's first TD run.

Mayfield was 20 of 30 for 199 yards with two TDs, one pick and a game-sealing lost fumble.

GIANTS 10, PATRIOTS 7

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Xavier McKinney's interception set up Randy Bullock's go-ahead 42-yard field goal midway through the fourth quarter, and New York beat New England to win consecutive games for the first time this season.

The Giants (4-8) had three interceptions of New England's woeful pair of quarterbacks. The Patriots (2-9) still had a chance to win in the final minute, but coach Bill Belichick played for a tie and Chad Ryland was wide left on a 35-yard field goal attempt with 3 seconds left.

Tommy DeVito threw a touchdown pass and didn't have a turnover for New York (4-8).

Rhamondre Stevenson, who rushed for 98 yards on 21 carries, scored on a 7-yard run for New England at the start of the second half after Bailey Zappe took over at QB for Mac Jones, as he has several times this season.

Zappe finished 9 of 14 for 54 yards and an interception. Jones was 12 of 21 for 89 yards and two picks.

RAMS 37, CARDINALS 14

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Matthew Stafford threw a season-high four touchdown passes, two each to Tyler Higbee and Kyren Williams, Los Angeles rolled past Arizona.

Williams had a huge game in his return from an ankle injury, running for 143 yards and catching six passes for 61 yards, including touchdowns of 15 and 3 yards. Los Angeles scored 30 unanswered points after falling behind 8-7 in the first quarter.

The Rams (5-6) won their second straight game overall and their ninth straight against NFC West rival Arizona.

Kyler Murray completed 27 of 45 passes for 256 yards and a touchdown for Arizona (2-9) in his third game since returning from an ACL tear in his right knee. He also ran for a score.

The Cardinals have lost eight of nine.

TITANS 17, PANTHERS 10

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Derrick Henry ran for two touchdowns and 76 yards as Tennessee beat Carolina to snap a three-game skid.

The Titans (4-7) improved to 4-0 at home this season after playing at Nissan Stadium just once over the past seven weeks.

Arden Key had a sack and forced fumble recovered by two-time Pro Bowl defensive lineman Jeffery Simmons, who also had one of four sacks by Tennessee. Denico Autry had two, the second of which came two plays before the Titans forced the Panthers to turn the ball over on downs with 1:55 left.

Tennessee never trailed. Rookie quarterback Will Levis threw for 185 yards and was sacked only once.

Carolina (1-10) started a three-game road swing by losing its fourth straight. No. 1 overall pick Bryce Young threw for 194 yards as the Panthers controlled the ball for much of the second half, but only came away with one touchdown.

Bucks rally to beat Blazers in Lillard's 1st game vs former team

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Damian Lillard acknowledged his first game against his former team felt a little bit different at first.

For much of the day, it also was shaping up as an embarrassing loss for the Milwaukee Bucks. It ended up with their biggest comeback in more than a decade.

Giannis Antetokounmpo made a tiebreaking tip-in with 18.5 seconds left and had 33 points, 16 rebounds and six assists and the Bucks overcame a 26-point deficit to beat the Portland Trail Blazers 108-102 on Sunday.

Lillard added 31 points and sealed the victory by making four free throws in the final 10 1/2 seconds. The seven-time all-NBA guard played the first 11 seasons of his career with the Trail Blazers before requesting a trade over the summer and eventually landing in Milwaukee.

Leading up to the game, Lillard downplayed the prospect of facing his old team for the first time and noted it would be different Jan. 31, when the Bucks visit Portland.

"Once I walked in, I saw a lot of familiar faces," Lillard said after the game. "I thought about going to the visitors' locker room for a second. I was like, 'Man, this is a little bit different.' Then when we got to the court, I saw everybody, and it was a weird feeling. But once we started playing, I kind of got over it quick. Just like before, I didn't think it would be a big thing or a crazy thing, and it wasn't."

The Bucks trailed 81-55 early in the third quarter, the largest deficit overcome by a winning team in the NBA this season. It represented the Bucks' largest come-from-behind victory since Nov. 26, 2012, when they came back from 27 points down in a 93-92 victory over Chicago.

Portland overhauled its roster to such an extent during the offseason that only a handful of Blazers had played alongside Lillard last season. Even so, the Blazers seemed inspired early on.

The Blazers entered the day ranked last in the NBA in 3-point percentage (.324) and next-to-last in field-goal percentage (.434), yet they shot 52.1% overall and 10 of 17 on 3-point attempts in the first half.

AP

Milwaukee Bucks' Damian Lillard (0) shoots past Portland Trail Blazers' Duop Reath (26) and Matisse Thybulle (4) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023, in Milwaukee.

But they shot just 27.9% in the second half and missed 12 of their last 13 attempts from 3-point range.

"To be a good team, a really really good team, contending team in this league, you've got to have composure," Blazers coach Chauncey Billups said. "Our composure was good for the most part, but when it really really counted, we came unraveled a little bit."

Jerami Grant led Portland with 22 points, and Malcolm Brogdon had 18 points and 12 assists.

A shot-clock violation enabled Milwaukee to get the ball in a tie game with 39.3 seconds left. Lillard missed a 3-pointer and Bobby Portis couldn't connect on a putback attempt, but Antetokounmpo got the tip-in.

"He's one of the greatest players to play this game, and he showed it tonight," Bucks coach Adrian Griffin said about Antetokounmpo. "We were kind of dead in the water, searching, trying to find some momentum. It was a gritty win."

Portland appeared to have a chance to tie it when Antetokounmpo was called for his sixth foul on Brogdon's drive with 14.6 seconds left. Griffin challenged the call, and the foul was overturned upon a replay review.

The overturn led to a jump ball between Milwaukee's Brook Lopez and Portland's Deandre Ayton. The ball ended up in the hands of Lillard, who made two free throws.

After Portland's Shaedon Sharpe missed a 3-point attempt, Lillard made two more free throws to complete the scoring.

Sharpe had 17 points points for the Trail Blazers, and Ayton had 14 points and 13 rebounds. Rookie Scoot Henderson had a career-high 13 points.

Milwaukee played without Khris Middleton because of tendinitis in his left Achilles.

"No timeline," Griffin said. "Just day to day. We'll see how he responds to treatment. I think things are promising."

SUNS 116, KNICKS 113

NEW YORK (AP)—Devin Booker made a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 1.7 seconds remaining and finished with 28 points and 11 assists to lead Phoenix past New York for its seventh straight victory.

With Kevin Durant out for a second straight game because of a sore right foot, Booker shot the winner from behind the arc, right in front of New York's bench.

Eric Gordon added 25 points for the Suns, who were also without guard Grayson Allen. He had started all 16 games before feeling ill Sunday.

Jalen Brunson had 35 points, eight assists and six rebounds for the Knicks. Julius Randle added 28 points, 17 in the third quarter.

NETS 118, BULLS 106

NEW YORK (AP)—Spencer Dinwiddie scored 24 points and Brooklyn made an NBA season-best 25 3-pointers to beat Chicago.

Lonnie Walker IV and Royce O'Neale each made six 3-pointers and Mikal Bridges had four. The previous high this season was 23 by Dallas at Memphis on Oct. 30.

The Nets set a franchise record for any quarter with 11 3-poiners in the second and made 16 in the first half. They finished 25 of 52, falling short of the franchise record of 27 and the NBA mark of 29.

Walker and O'Neale each scored 20 points and Bridges had 15 to help Brooklyn improve to 8-8 and follow its 112-97 victory over Miami on Saturday night with its second straight win. DeMar Derozan led Chicago with 27 points.

NUGGETS 132, SPURS 120

DENVER (AP)—Nikola Jokic had a season-high 39 points to go with 11 rebounds and nine assists and Denver sent San Antonio to its 12th straight loss.

Wembanyama, the top pick in the June draft, had 22 points, 11 rebounds and six steals for San Antonio. The losing streak is the third longest in franchise history. The Spurs lost 13 in a row in the 1988-89 season and 16 in a row last season.

Michael Porter Jr. added 25 points to help Denver improve to 8-0 at home.

CELTICS 113, HAWKS 103

BOSTON (AP)—Jayson Tatum scored 34 points, Jaylen Brown had 21 and injury-depleted, NBA-leading Boston beat Atlanta.

Kristaps Porzingis and Jrue Holiday were sidelined with injuries for Boston (13-4). Holiday was out for the second straight game because of a sprained right ankle and Porzingis strained his left calf in a loss at Orlando on Friday.

Trae Young had 33 points and seven assists for Atlanta.

MAGIC 130, HORNETS 117

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Franz Wagner and Cole Anthony each 30 points and Orlando beat Charlotte for its seventh straight victory.

Anthony scored 17 points in the fourth quarter, helping the Magic stretch their lead as many as 16 points. He also had seven rebounds and seven assists. Paolo Banchero had 23 points and eight assists.

Miles Bridges led Charlotte with 23 points and 10 rebounds.

TIMBERWOLVES 119, GRIZZLIES 97

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Anthony Edwards scored 24 points, Karl-Anthony Towns and Mike Conley each had 18 and Minnesota routed Memphis.

Rudy Gobert added 13 points to help Minnesota win for the fourth time in the last five games. Conley added a season-high 10 assists and was 6 of 9 from 3-point range.

Jaren Jackson Jr. led Memphis with 18 points. Memphis lost its fourth straight dropped to 0-8 at home as it deals with injuries and the 25-game suspension of Ja Morant.

CAVALIERS 105, RAPTORS 102

CLEVELAND (AP)—Darius Garland had 24 points and eight assists and Max Strus all 20 of his points in the third quarter, helping Cleveland beat Toronto.

Strus added 11 rebounds and five assists. Jarrett Allen scored 18 points and Evan Mobley had 12 points and 14 rebounds for Cleveland, coming off a loss to Los Angeles Lakers on Saturday night.

Toronto center Jakob Poeltl set season highs of 18 points and 13 rebounds, and Pascal Siakam had 18 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

NBA, NHL, MLB unveil 30-second ad promoting responsible sports betting

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA, NHL and Major League Baseball have joined forces to produce a 30-second ad promoting responsible sports betting.

The "Never Know What's Next" commercial unveiled Tuesday is a coordination of the three leagues, sportsbook operators DraftKings, Fanatics, FanDuel, PENN Entertainment and the National Council on Problem Gambling.

Scott Kaufman-Ross, the NBA's senior VP and head of gaming and new business ventures, said it was important to educate especially young bettors on the inherent risk of sports gambling and correct the misperception that it's a good way to make money.

"With more fans than ever having the opportunity to legally bet in their home states, it is imperative that we work with our media and sportsbook partners, as well as with our friends at the NBA and MLB, to inform and emphasize the risks and encourage the importance of setting limits and betting responsibly, especially among our growing fanbase in the younger demographic," NHL chief business officer Keith Wachtel said.

The ad's message is to remind bettors to set betting limits and gamble responsibly. It aired during the Cleveland Cavaliers-Philadelphia 76ers in-season tournament game Tuesday on TNT and was posted to the leagues' social media channels.

NBA BRIEFS

Durant out for a second straight game with sore right foot, won't play against the Knicks

NEW YORK (AP)—Kevin Durant is missing a second consecutive game because of a sore right foot, leaving the Phoenix Suns star unable to play in his first game in New York since being traded last February from Brooklyn. Durant warmed up before the game Sunday at Madison Square Garden but the Suns ruled him out about half an hour before the start. He was hoping to return after missing the Suns' victory at Memphis on Friday because of the injury. Durant would have been hoping to extend his winning streak against the Knicks that lasts more than a decade. He hasn't lost to them in a game he played in since April 7, 2013, winning 13 straight games with Oklahoma City, Golden State and the Nets.

Porzingis, Holiday both out with an injury for Celtics game against Hawks

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Celtics will be missing two starters Sunday night against the Atlanta Hawks as Kristaps Porzingis and Jrue Holiday are sidelined with injuries. Holiday is out for the second straight game with a sprained right ankle. Porzingis strained his left calf in a loss at Orlando on Friday afternoon, and is out, too. Coach Joe Mazzulla said Porzingis will be examined again "after a week or so." Holiday warmed up about two hours before the scheduled tip-off but the club sent out a message that he was out on its official X site, formerly known as Twitter.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Maplas ties Guardians atop Pacific Saipan hoops

Maplas tied Guardians atop the team standings of the Pacific Saipan Inc. Promo Invitational Basketball League after posting win No. 2 against Alliana's last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Dominating from start to finish, Maplas took a 17-12 lead after the first quarter thanks to the 4 points each from Gerald Aniciete and Mars Tagle.

Alliana's fought back in the second quarter with Jose Broncano and Obet Valiente matching Aniciete and Tagle's output in the first quarter. Despite their best efforts though, Maplas entered halftime with a 31-25 lead.

Maplas flexed their muscles at the start of the second half and outscored a misfiring Alliana's side, 15-9, as Ronald Rueda came alive with 8 points in that period alone.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maplas players pose for a group photo before a recent game in the Pacific Saipan Inc. Promo Invitational Basketball League at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

But Alliana's wasn't giving up easily and continued to hang on to Maplas' coattails in the fourth and final quarter, but timely baskets from Rueda and Rommel Usi managed to fend them off and the latter got away with the 7-point win, 67-60.

Rueda and Usi led Maplas with 15 and 12 points, respectively, while Valiente's 20 paced the now 1-1 Alliana's losing cause with a game-high 20 markers.

In the second game, Jimbo Tabora was literally a one-man wrecking ball in leading Team Legends to a 68-52 whipping of Bourbon Bar & Grill.

In helping his team level its win-loss count at 1-1 Tabora scored 24 points, while his counterpart in the now 0-2 Bourbon Bar & Café, Paul John Manansala, almost matched him point for point with 23 points of his own.

First Game

Maplas 67 – Rueda 15, Usi 12, Austria 7, Cortez 7, Ma. Tagle 6, Mo. Tagle 4, Odicta 4, Claveria 4, Palima 4.

Alliana's 60 – Valiente 20, Mendoza 10, Broncano 10, Matuguina 7, Merales 6, Armas 5.

Scoring by quarters: 17-12, 31-25, 46-34, 67-60.

Second Game

Team Legends 68 – Ji. Tabora 24, Tibayan 9, Ju. Tabora 9, Ege 8, Rosario 6, P. Tabora 6, Montano 3, J. Tabora 2, Zapata 1.

Bourbon Bar & Café 52 – Manansala 23, Binuya 10, Boringgot 6, Divinagrasya 5, Jose 2, Lopez 2, Gragasin 2, Guinhawa 1, Montoya 1.

Scoring by quarters: 22-12, 35-18, 50-35, 68-52.

FRUITFUL

From page 20

rero hit back-to-back goals in the second half (46th and 70th minute) before Nolan Ngewakl capped the team's long-game dominance with a goal in the 90th. Merrick Toves, who flew from the United Kingdom to Honiara to suit up for the NMI, was the goalkeeper for the game and earned his first clean sheet in an international competition.

"I would like to congratulate the NMI football family for today's victory. For a young and developing football nation like NMI, winning is not everything. It's also about the football family's hard work and dedication, and today we are rewarded for all the things we are doing to develop our players and the program. I sincerely would like to thank the NMI football family for always supporting and encouraging us. Their support continues to give us so much energy and power," NMI Men's National Team head coach Michiteru Mita said.

"The boys showed great dedication and team work. All 23 players are working hard and the support of the coaching staff are also great. We will continue the hard work and keep our focus to win next game," Mita added.

The NMI Men's National Football Team will play Tuvalu this Thursday at 1pm (Saipan).

In other results in athletics, runners Casey Cruz, Alexander Camacho, and Theodore Rodgers completed their respective races in the 100m. Rodgers was on Heat 3 of the men's race and clocked in at 11.52 seconds to finish fifth, one notch behind the fourth semis qualifier in his group. Camacho recorded 11.55 seconds—also for a fifth place finish on Heat 1. In the women's race, Cruz ran on Heat 4 and logged 13.07 seconds.

Athletics, football, and va'a races will continue this week, while beach volleyball's Logan Mister and Andrew Johnson will have their first match today, and triathlete Leo Wania will compete this Wednesday.

Team Marianas' participation in this year's Pacific Games is supported by the Joeten Daidai Foundation, Triple J, Crowne Plaza Resort, IT&E, IP&E, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Mobil, Tan Holdings, and McDonald's of Guam & Saipan. ***(PR)***

TUDELA

From page 20

even before the competition, she said she knew she was going to bring it home. On her gold medal win, she said, "I was so ecstatic because all the hard work paid off despite all the challenges and all the frustration—and literally me crying about not having food and then having to pay out of pocket for pretty much everything. It was so frustrating so it made this reward even sweeter."

Laxa, for his part, said that his goal is to come back stronger next time. He had hoped more competitors were in his weight class but he's glad to have represented CNMI and gone up against veteran bodybuilders, while he had just started last year.

He then especially thanked his girlfriend Mia Carreon and their daughter Dami for supporting him through it all, as well as Tudela and Benjamin Maratita, and his coach Jaivan Dela Pena who helped him in the final stages of his preparation and guided him while he was in the Solomons.

Coach Benjamin Maratita said of the athletes' wins and the experience of the Games, "The biggest thing was adjusting to each of the athletes' needs but also just their different types of training plans as well. We really tried to focus on that mindset of we're coming in here, we're working hard regardless of the environment, and really just kind of putting our foot down and showing everybody what the CNMI is about. So, I'm super proud of Christina and Davy has just got the bronze too. Congratulations again and biba CNMI!"

In other results, va'a's V1 500m paddlers Jenisha Dubrall and Tyler Andrew didn't make it to the finals.

Dubrall finished fifth with a time of 3:14.56 and Andrew also finished fifth at 2:52.47.

Most of the va'a athletes fell ill prior to their competition, but Dubrall and Andrew still showed up with heart and raced.

Dubrall said that her race was very difficult. "It was nothing like our practices because we usually paddle at 6am, so the wind conditions were much worse and kept picking up every hour. The lanes were also very crooked so I was very confused during my race."

In the end, she said, "you either win or learn. Today I definitely learned a lot more about my sport and plan on bettering myself. Tyler and I will be doing every race which is v1 500m sprint (the one we did today) v6 500m and 1,500m sprint, v1 marathon (10 miles), and the v6 marathon (15 miles)."

For Andrew's part, he said he was nervous and was also sick, therefore he didn't feel 100% in his race. He said, "the conditions were so rough. Our race was against the wind and the waves, so it was a struggle to even make it past the 250-meter mark without being tired. I hope tomorrow is a lot calmer because it is the 500- and 1.500-meter races, and I do not plan on getting my team disqualified on our turns. Overall, I enjoyed my first day and first time racing in a big competition like this alongside some of the best paddlers out there."

As for athletes' well being and health, team chef de mission Nick Gross said, "Currently, guidance is to have any and sick individuals report to village clinic for assessment. I'll work on procuring masks ASAP and distribute to all managers. Isolation is impossible. Stay hydrated! Keep me updated and seek medical assistance village policlinic when needed. Regarding competition...do our best to rise to the challenge. Those with sick minors, please keep parent/guardians informed. Wish we had a better plan but under the circumstances…"

As for tennis, they are out of contention as junior netter Nason Wessel lost his consolation round match yesterday morning.

Results of the other athletics events will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

As of 7pm last night, NMI racked up a total of 11 medals—4 gold, 1 silver, and 6 bronze.

LEIGH GASES

Bodybuilder Davy Laxa shows off his bronze medal, the CNMI flag, and Solo The Turtle—2023 Pacific Games mascot—after his competition in the under 65-kg weight class on the one-day bodybuilding event yesterday at the Maranatha Hall.

BLUE

From page 20

The moment they called for penalty, I knew it was going to be me and I knew exactly where I was going to put it and I put it there. I'm satisfied with that."

As for their team's first win in Oceania, he said that playing here was a new environment against new opponents, and they faced a lot of unknowns. "I think the fact that we came here—we had a good showing against Tahiti—and had great results today (yesterday)—it shows that we're competitive in Oceania. Hopefully that means the sky's the limit for us in Asia as well as we are part of the [Asian Football Confederation]."

Toves, for his part on not conceding a goal, said "It's a blessing. I thank my team for their hard work on the field defending and my coach Jersh [Angeles] for coaching us here, and Chris Aninzo for telling me what to do and be a better keeper. It's really a blessing for me and it motivates me." He also thanked his goalkeeper coach in England, Michal Korbel, who coached him before he came to Solomon.

He added that the team knew they were going to win their match. "We did our best, we came out stronger than American Samoa. We also got better results in our second game against Tahiti than our first against Fiji, then today we won with four goals… It's a blessing for the team and our country."

Guerrero was asked how he felt after he scored two goals and said that he just came into the game to do his job as a striker and score goals. "I really wanted to score one goal and fortunately, I scored another one as well, so I was really happy about that. I was happy because not only was it a personal achievement, but it was an achievement for our whole team—and I'm just glad I was able to contribute to the team like that."

The youngest player, 15-year-old Ngewakl, said his goal was "lucky" as he had just come in to sub for Markus Toves. Brian Lubao passed the ball at the right moment and Ngewakl found an opening quickly to score the fourth goal just before the match ended.

Ngewakl added that he was really surprised because he didn't know if he'd play, let alone score a goal, but was happy when he ended up doing both.

Head coach Michiteru Mita was all smiles after their win and said, "I'm very happy of our achievement—on what the boys did today. They put so much dedication, hard work, sacrifice, and finally, the boys delivered a good result."

"We didn't concede a goal either, so defenders and goalkeeper concentrated in the game until the end, so we could manage the game," said Mita.

He said they'll now shift their focus on the next game as the boys are still hungry for another win. "We will prepare as much as we could and we're going to have a great last game," he said.

Mita then gave a nod to the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association family and said, "Thank you for your continued support. Win or lose, you always support us. I want to congratulate all NMI soccer family for our achievement made by our soccer team."

He also thanked NMIFA president Jerry Tan and NMIFA's executive committee members for their continued support of the men's and women's national teams. "We will keep working hard and keep striving to reach a higher level of play," said Mita.

Coach Konomi Suzuki and player Zhi Xiang Lin couldn't make it to the match due to illness from the past couple days.

Even without a podium placement this time around, NMI is in the Top 10. They need to beat Tuvalu on Thursday to place ninth.

2023 Honiara, Solomon Islands Pacific Games

LEIGH GASES

Christina Tudela poses during the pre-judging in the Model Physique category of the bodybuilding competition of the 2023 Pacific Games yesterday morning at the Maranatha Hall.

LEIGH GASES

Christina Tudela is one of four bodybuilders in the Model Physique category of the bodybuilding competition of the 2023 Pacific Games yesterday at the Maranatha Hall.

LEIGH GASES

Davy Laxa poses during the pre-judging of the 65-kg weight class in the bodybuilding competition of the 2023 Pacific Games yesterday morning at the Maranatha Hall.

LEIGH GASES

Davy Laxa poses and smiles for the camera during his 65-kg weight class bodybuilding competition in the 2023 Pacific Games at the Maranatha Hall yesterday morning.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI Men's National Soccer Team goalie Merrick Toves records his first international clean sheet after their 4-0 win against American Samoa yesterday morning at the SIFF 2.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jenisha Dubrall poses with the CNMI flag before her V1 500m race yesterday morning at DC Park.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tyler Andrew before his V1 500m race yesterday morning at DC Park.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Athletics' Andrew Camacho on the big screen before his men's 100m race yesterday afternoon at the National Sports Stadium.

Hurts runs for OT winner among 5 total TDs as Eagles beat Bills.

PAGE 16

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Maplas ties Guardians atop Pacific Saipan hoops.

PAGE 18

Tudela, Tan golden in start of Week 2

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—Through trials and tribulations, bodybuilder Christina Tudela overcame it all and took home the first gold medal to start off Week 2 in the short-class Model Physique category of the one-day bodybuilding competition during the 2023 Pacific Games at the Maranatha Hall yesterday.

Meanwhile, middle distance runner Tania Tan put up with long travel times to get here, laced up her running shoes, and won gold in the start of athletics competitions yesterday as well at the National Sports Stadium. She came in with a time of 18:08.69, while silver was Papua New Guinea's Scholastica Herman at 18:38.93, and bronze was New Caledonia's Deborah Kaboer at 19:03.46.

Also adding to NMI's medal haul yesterday was Davy Laxa who snagged bronze in the under 65-kg weight class yesterday as well. Gold was Solomon Islands' Tome Kelesi and silver was Papua New Guinea's Iso Finch.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The NMI's Tania Tan, center, on the medal podium for winning the gold medal in the 5,000m run in the 2023 Pacific Games last Monday.

For the bodybuilders' experience, Tudela said "Any challenge you could possibly think of—those were thrown at us—from the minute we got here, the miscommunication, transportation, training venues, and diet accommodations… we had to basically fend for ourselves—pay for our taxi and food."

She then thanked everyone they've met along the way that helped them from the time they got to the Solomons on Nov. 15.

Tudela added that in the prejudging in the morning, she was anxious because she just got her period the other day and felt bloated. "I felt like my physique wasn't at its best form… but I just went out there and did my very best."

She manifested the gold as

See TUDELA on Page 18

LEIGH GASES
Christina Tudela celebrates her gold medal win in the model physique event in the bodybuilding competition of the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands last Monday night.

Blue Ayuyus record 1st win in Pacific Games

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—The NMI Men's National Soccer Team recorded its first win in the Pacific Games and in the Oceania region after they defeated American Samoa, 4-0, yesterday morning at the SIFF 2.

Team captain Jireh Yobech set the tone for the team as he notched a goal via penalty kick in the 21st minute. The rest of the first half was quiet as American Samoa's defense tightened up, but a slack in the second half allowed NMI strikers Ruben Guerrero and Nolan Ngewakl to follow their leader and tack more goals on the scoreboard.

Guerrero went on to fire at the net not once but twice, to make it 3-0 by the 70th minute—much to the delight of the Blue Ayuyus and NMI's supporters in the stands.

Toward the end of the match in the 90th minute, the youngest player on the team, Nolan Ngewakl caught a quick break and scored the fourth and final goal after just a few seconds of being subbed into the match.

To top it off, Merrick Toves, the team's main goalie, recorded his first international clean sheet—meaning he did not concede a single goal in the match.

Yobech said after the match that it went according to plan—which was to score goals from the side as they had identified it as American Samoa's weakness. They defended strong centrally, so NMI's strikers moved the ball down the line, created some crossings, and pushed to score their goals.

On his goal, he said, "It's my first senior men's goal.

See BLUE on Page 18

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Men's National Soccer Team poses for a group photo before their match and 4-0 win against American Samoa yesterday morning at SIFF 2.

Fruitful day for NMI athletes

Team Marianas began the second and final week of competitions in the 2023 Pacific Games in style, winning a pair of gold medals and one bronze and recording a dominant victory in football yesterday in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Christina Tudela handed the NMI its third gold medal in the 2023 Pacific Games, which resumed competitions Monday after taking a brief break last Sunday. Tudela topped the women's Model Physique category, getting the judges' nod in the preliminaries in the morning session and in last night's finale posing against five other competitors. Davy Laxa, on the other hand, competed in the under 65-kg bodybuilding event and was awarded the bronze medal.

After the success of the bodybuilding's pair, Tania Tan capped the fruitful night for Team Marianas with a gold medal in the 5,000m run, besting 18 other runners. Tan, who is based in Hawaii and arrived in Honiara last Saturday to join Team Marianas in its campaign in the 2023 Pacific Games, completed her first race in 18:08.69. The 22-year-old athlete crossed the finish line more than 30 seconds ahead of runner-up Scholastica Herman (18:38.93) of Papua New Guinea. New Caledonia's Deborah Koboer (19:03.46) joined Tan and Herman in the Top 3.

NMI surpasses medal haul in 2019 Pacific Games

With a pair of gold medals and a bronze last Monday, the NMI now has a 4-1-6 gold-silver-bronze medal tally, surpassing its performance in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa where it won 3 golds and 1 silver.

In football, the NMI Men's National Football Team got its first victory against an Oceania Football Confederation member-country after shutting down American Samoa, 4-0.

Jireh Yobech opened up the scoring for the NMI with a penalty kick, while Ruben Guer-

See FRUITFUL on Page 18

2023 PACIFIC GAMES MEDAL STANDINGS

(As of November 22, 2023 | 6:30PM)

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
New Caledonia	18	15	21	54
Australia	13	11	3	27
Samoa	9	1	2	12
Tahiti	5	14	14	33
Solomon Islands	5	9	7	21
Marshall Islands	5	3	0	8
Papua New Guinea	4	4	7	15
Guam	4	0	2	6
Kiribati	3	0	4	7
Northern Mariana Islands	2	1	4	7
Cook Islands	2	0	1	3
FSM	2	0	0	2
New Zealand	1	2	4	7
Fiji	0	4	2	6
Nauru	0	3	4	7
Tuvalu	0	3	0	3
Vanuatu	0	1	2	3
American Samoa	0	1	0	1
Palau	0	0	3	3
Tonga	0	0	0	0
Niue	0	0	0	0
Norfolk Island	0	0	0	0
Tokelau	0	0	0	0
Wallis and Futuna	0	0	0	0

PROUD SPONSORS OF TEAM MARIANAS